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PRAYERS AND HYMNS.

MURRAY AND GIBB, PRINTERS, EDINBURGH.

PRAYERS AND HYMNS

FOR

MORNING AND EVENING

AND

OTHER TIMES AND OCCASIONS.

BY THE

REV. GEORGE WALKER,

MINISTER OF KINNELL.

'Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.
Is any merry? let him sing psalms.'
JAMES V. 13.

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PREFACE.

PRAYER is the humble address which sinful and needy creatures present to the Creator in the name of Jesus,—the earnest supplication in which, while they adore the Divine perfections and dispensations, they implore the forgiveness of their sins, and the continuance of their daily bread, and the salvation of their immortal souls.

Many books have been published to facilitate the discharge of the duty of Prayer, whether the Christian is called to the discharge of the duty in the closet, the parlour, or the church. This volume offers assistance to the worshipper in his own private retirement, or while conducting worship in the family.

Of course, those whose minds are richly furnished with devotional sentiments, and who, by means of a retentive memory and a ready utterance, can give instant expression to their sentiments in a continuous flow of appropriate language, have no need of such assistance.

But there are many who, though full of devout affections, and desirous of holding daily communion with their

Heavenly Father, have neither such quickness of recollection, nor such facility of expression, as they deem suitable and necessary for the worship of the Almighty at the throne of grace. These persons naturally have recourse to devotions which other worshippers have committed to writing and put forth in aid of the service of the closet or of the family altar. And, in this matter, let the diffident, instead of neglecting devotional exercises, serve God, and serve Him acceptably, with their whole heart and soul, till they acquire such a command of extemporary prayer as will enable them to serve Him with greater freedom.

The use of forms, however, has some advantages. It may perhaps aid the worshipper in the recollection of many things which he would gladly remember at the throne of grace. And in this way, he will be enabled both to extend his grateful acknowledgment of mercies, and to perceive that he needs to supplicate on many points which might have escaped his recollection.

Prayers are not merely vehicles of devotion; they may be regarded as remembrancers of duty: and in this respect also, the use of forms is not without its peculiar advantages. How full soever extemporary prayers may be, it is probable that forms which have been composed at leisure will be more comprehensive,—indulging neither in favourite topics nor in a peculiar phraseology, such as insensibly occupy the mind and memory of the offerer of extemporary prayer. And thus, in the use of the forms,

the worshipper is more extensively reminded of duty, and Prayer becomes a more valuable teacher, instructing the worshipper, from day to day, in the various lessons of heavenly wisdom, for the guidance of his conduct in the world.

But whether the worshipper extemporizes his prayers or employs forms of devotion, let him remember that in neither case have the words any value, unless the understanding and the affections go along with them; that the offering of prayer, like the singing of psalms, and the performing of all other duties, finds no acceptance with God, unless it be hallowed with the influences of the Holy Spirit; and that the indwelling of the Spirit within us is manifested, not by fluency of speech and copiousness of scriptural language, but by an increasing liveliness in the exercise of the Christian graces.

To a series of forms of prayer, a collection of Hymns seems to be a suitable appendage.

The word 'Hymn' is of Greek origin, and primarily it seems to have meant among the heathen Greeks, an ode or song, in which were celebrated the praises of divine or human beings,—of deities or heroes. But under the Christian revelation, its application is generally restricted to the praise, the worship, and service of the One True God, although indeed, as in ancient times, it is still frequently didactic, and teaches the doctrines and duties of the gospel, without any special reference to the worship of

God; and its metrical or rhythmical structure renders it more easily and more naturally susceptible of the accompaniment and embellishment of music, than instructions or admonitions which are expressed in the ordinary language of prose.

No such word as 'Hymn' occurs in the Old Testament or Jewish portion of the English Bible. But the book containing the poetical pieces of David, and bearing in our English Bible the title of the Book of Psalms, is called in David's own language by a name (SEPHER TEHILLIM) which might be more literally translated 'The Book of Praises,' or 'The Book of Hymns,' than 'The Book of Psalms.' The Alexandrian Jews, who, about two hundred years before the Christian era, translated the Jewish or Hebrew into Greek, preferred the word 'Psalm' to the word 'Hymn,' merely, as it should seem, because 'Psalm' intimated the instrument (the Psaltery) to the music of which David's odes were sung.

But in various passages these Alexandrian translators speak of the HYMNS of David, as do also other Greek translators. From the Greek translation of the Old Testament or Jewish Scriptures, the word 'PSALM' passed into the New Testament: for the Apostles, writing in Greek, naturally spoke of the compositions of David under the name of Psalms; but they did not so speak, without speaking also of *hymns* and *odes* and *songs*, all which names may be found in titles of Psalms in the Greek Bible. The hymn which Jesus, on the evening preceding

His death, sung with His disciples, before He left the Paschal table, was probably a part of the Paschal Hymn, which comprehended the 113th and five following Psalms. Perhaps also to the Psalmody of the Jewish Church the primitive Christians soon added spiritual songs of their own, in which the doctrines and blessings of the gospel were more plainly set forth than in the writings of David and of the other Jewish Prophets. Many expositors have supposed that the Apostle Paul quotes such a song in his Epistle to the Ephesians: for the quotation, 'Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light,' makes, in the original Greek, three Anacreontic verses, and may have been the commencement of a spiritual ode. We learn from a letter which the younger Pliny, governor of Bithynia, wrote to the Emperor Trajan at the beginning of the second century, about seventy years after Christ's death, that the Christians met together before light on a stated day, and sung a song to Christ as a God. The twilight hymn of the Greeks, which begins 'O joyful Light,' came down most probably from the earlier part of the third century, whether the author of it was Athenogenes the Martyr, or some other devout and orthodox Christian.

In the Latin Church, metrical hymns were, if not introduced, widely disseminated in the fourth century, under the auspices of St Ambrose, whose hymns were a model to his contemporaries, and gave the name of Ambrosian to hymns of a similar nature. But in the Greek Church, it would appear that still for several centuries only rhyth-

mical hymns were used in the public worship, although Gregory Nazianzen furnished metrical hymns to the Greeks as early as Ambrose had done to the Latins.

When Luther introduced the Reformation among his countrymen, the Germans, a great change speedily took place. A vernacular Bible was put into their hands; and vernacular hymns, translated from the best of the old Latin hymns, or composed expressly for the use of the Protestant Church, enabled the people to take a share again in the public services of religion with audible voices and affectionate and intelligent hearts. Such of the states and cities as were able to establish the Protestant doctrine among them, adopted vernacular hymn books. Many of the hymns were merely translations of the more devotional parts of the Psalms; and frequently, such was the arrangement of the hymns, that they suggested and taught the whole system of doctrinal and practical religion in a regular order.

The Church of England, like several other Protestant Churches, adopted a metrical Psalter along with a few hymns, which were partly borrowed from the Lutherans. But the English clergy, although they are restricted to the prayers of the Liturgy, have ample freedom in the matter of Hymnody, as is testified by the many valuable Hymnals which have appeared in all parts of England.

With regard to the hymns which form the Second Part of this volume, a great portion of them may be viewed as

Metrical Prayers, differing in little or nothing from prose prayers, save in this, that the worshipper, if he so pleases, can accompany them with the melody of song. Almost all the following hymns of this class express, like the prayers, the effusions of an individual worshipper; but they are not so strictly limited to the praise of the Almighty and the ordinary topics of devotion, as not occasionally to hold forth, in a special manner, some of the duties of the Christian life, and of the graces of the Christian character.

NOTE.—The prayers in this volume, it will be observed, are expressed as the language of individual worshippers. They may be made applicable for family worship, by simply changing *I*, *me*, *my*, *mine*, into *we*, *us*, *our*, *ours*.

It may be mentioned that a small volume, comprehending the Prayers for the First Week in this collection, as also a few of the other Prayers, and forty of the Hymns, were published in 1862.

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PRAYERS.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.—PS. LXV. 2.

WHEN thou prayest, enter into thy closet: and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.—MATT. VI. 6.

I EXHORT that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.—I TIM. II. I.

PRAYERS.

FIRST WEEK.

I. SUNDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, I thank Thee that I have seen the revolution of another week, and am again allowed to welcome the day and the duties of the Sabbath. I bless Thy holy name that Thou, by whose ordinance the Sabbath was instituted in the beginning of time, again callest me to sanctify my own soul in the sanctifying of another Sabbath unto Thee: and do Thou graciously grant me to feel in the joy with which I wait upon Thee, on this Thy holy day, with my devotional services, that the Sabbath was made for man, to promote his comfort and happiness both in the present world and in the next.

I rejoice that the first day of the week again reminds me of the first day of the Creation, and the beginning of time; and more especially do I rejoice to remember that on this day of the week Jesus Christ arose from the dead, and the Holy Ghost descended on the Apostles

and sent them forth to proclaim His resurrection and His gospel throughout the world.

For the sake of Christ, O grant me so to feel the sanctifying influence of the Holy Ghost in my own heart, as to be delivered from the power of sin in this world, and from its punishment in the next. May this day, another Sabbath holy and sacred unto Thee, be a means of holiness to my soul, and promote the reign of religion both in my heart and in my life. May my affections be this day withdrawn from worldly affairs, and fixed on spiritual and eternal things,—on the growth of my Christian graces, and the salvation of my immortal soul. May my delight be this day, not in thinking my own thoughts, or seeking my own pleasures, but in reading Thy word, in worshipping Thy name, and in meditating on all Thy works and ways. And do Thou grant, O gracious God, that through Thy heavenly aids I may so sanctify this day as to bring down Thy heavenly blessing upon the other days of the week. And especially may every return of this holy day be a remembrancer of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of grace and supplications, without whose influences neither is the day hallowed aright, nor its services pleasing unto Thee.

O that this Spirit might shed abroad the love of Thee more abundantly in my heart. O that this Spirit dwelling in me might strengthen me in the inner man, and quicken my dead soul into a holier life, and help my infirmities in prayer and in all other duties, and make me to abound in hope,—a lively hope of glory and eternal life, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Extend Thy special protection, O God, throughout this day, to all my relatives, friends, and neighbours. May Thy great salvation through Thy Son Jesus Christ be more fully made known to them, by the reading and preaching of Thy word, and by the teaching of Thy Holy Spirit. Send forth Thy mercy and Thy truth this day upon their souls.

I pray, O heavenly Father, that the ministrations of Thy servants may be accompanied with a mighty power from on high, for the converting of sinners, for the strengthening of the weak, for the comforting of the feeble-minded, and the stablishing of Thy saints more firmly in the faith and graces of the gospel. May this day, whether it be hallowed by congregations, or families, or individuals, be blessed to the worshippers over all the world, in the increase of their faith and love, and of their earnest endeavours to hold forth the word of life in their walk and conversation, for the conversion of the unbeliever and the heathen. Accept their sacrifice of praise and of prayer everywhere. Make them to be joyful both in Thy house of prayer, and in their own dwellings and private retirements. And do Thou grant, O merciful God, that at length they may be prepared, through the Sabbaths and services of this world, for entering on the hallelujahs and songs of the heavenly temple, among the angels in an eternal Sabbath, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I pray, saying, Our Father, etc.

2. SUNDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Creator, I thank Thee that when time and the revolution of the heavenly luminaries began, Thou gavest a Sabbath unto man for the rest both of his soul and of his body. I bless Thee that I have this day seen another Sabbath; and I acknowledge that Thou hast dealt most mercifully with me, both spiritually and temporally, from the beginning of my life to the close of this holy day. I praise Thee, that, compassionating the sinfulness, the ignorance, the fatigues, and the weariness of man, Thou commandest one day to be set apart weekly from the other days of the week, for the refreshing of the whole man, and especially for the care of the soul. Six days Thou givest me for doing whatsoever my hand findeth to do in the affairs of this world: but the Sabbath is holy unto Thee; and Thou commandest me to keep Thy Sabbaths, and to reverence Thy sanctuary.

Alas! I must acknowledge my innumerable failures and deficiencies; my neglect both of the Sabbath and of the sanctuary; my slothfulness in the duties which the sanctuary and the Sabbath require; my earnestness in pursuing the advantages and enjoyments of this life; and my disinclination to put forth my faculties in the cultivation of spiritual worth. For the sake of Jesus, who is Lord of the Sabbath, Son of God and son of man, I pray Thee to forgive my breaches of the commandment. O keep me henceforward from misusing my spiritual advantages. If Thou shalt yet allow me to see other Sabbaths upon earth, O

enable me to sanctify them more thoroughly by the study of Thy holy will, and the adoration of Thy glorious perfections. Do Thou grant, O holy God, that the services of this day and of every coming Sabbath, if other Sabbaths shall still come to me here, may be continually more acceptable unto Thee. And whether few or many Sabbaths yet await me, I pray, O holy Father, that they may see me advancing in all goodness, righteousness, and truth; in gentleness, meekness, and temperance; in love, joy, and peace, the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Wherever the ordinances of religion were this day administered, and Thy servants were engaged in proclaiming the offer of the everlasting gospel unto men, I pray that the work may be followed with Thy heavenly blessing; that sinners may be reclaimed from their evil ways; that unbelievers may be converted unto the faith of Christ; that the careless may be aroused to a sense of their danger; that the lukewarm may be enlivened with a greater ardour of affection; that penitents may be received into favour, mourners comforted with the prospect of glory, and saints builded up in knowledge and holiness on the sure foundation of their faith unto eternal life.

O hasten the arrival of the glorious time when the Messiah's kingdom shall comprehend all the kingdoms of this world; when His law, going forth out of Zion into every land, shall hallow the laws and institutions of men into a perfect expression of Thy holy will; and the pride and selfishness of nations shall give place to kind and generous thoughts, to love and harmony, to happiness and peace over all the earth.

Continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee. Be gracious to all Thy people in this land, and in this neighbourhood. I commend to Thy care this corner of Thy great vineyard. Bless, O God, this nation, and prosper it, as unto Thee seemeth good. Bless the Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family. Help all invested with authority to rule for Thee.

Almighty God, I again commit myself to Thy care and protection during the silence of night. Be Thou my Guardian, whatever evil, seen or unseen, may be near. Again bring me forth, I beseech Thee, in health and strength, in the morning, to enter upon the duties of another day and of another week. O grant that my behaviour in the world may be, then and always, such as becometh the high calling of Christ and the holy ordinances in which I have been engaged on this holy day. And when at length I lie down to come forth no more into the world, be pleased to take my soul to Thyself, and afterwards to give me a part in the resurrection of the just; for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose own resurrection, as it hallows this day of the week, gives also a pledge of resurrection to His people. And in the name and words of Christ, I further pray, Our Father, etc.

3. MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, my Guardian and Protector by day and by night, in the hours which Thou appointest for labour, as well as in the season of darkness and repose,

I thank Thee for the light of another day; and I fervently pray that, as Thou hast watched over me in the season of night, so Thou wouldst lead me through the duties of the day, and bring me in safety to its close. And do Thou mercifully grant that, when my days and nights come to an end, and the luminaries of heaven roll no longer for me, I may see the light of an eternal day, and partake of the service and happiness of an eternal Sabbath.

O holy, O righteous God, I confess that I am altogether unworthy of Thy regard. I deserve nothing at Thy hands save wrath and condemnation. Unholy, unclean, unrighteous, I have nothing to plead at Thy tribunal save the righteousness of Christ. I am overrun in the inner man with a host of evil affections, and have no means of deliverance, unless for the sake of Thy beloved Son Thou send down the mighty influences of Thy Holy Spirit into my soul. O clothe me with the righteousness of Christ, so that, unrighteous and unholy as I am, I may be justified before Thee for His sake, and allowed, as if I were righteous like Him, to partake of His glory. And O, merciful God, do Thou grant me a token of my justification, my forgiveness and acceptance hereafter, in granting me now a renewal of my affections after the likeness of Christ, and a continual increase of faith and holiness, of purity and candour and righteousness, in heart, speech, and behaviour.

Whatever portion awaits me here, O forbid that I should rest satisfied with anything that this world can afford. Keep me in mind of the vanity, the uncertainty, the nothingness of all sensual and worldly pleasures; and

enable me, by whatsoever allurements I may be surrounded, to look with the eye of faith beyond these present scenes to the mansions which Christ prepares for His people in heaven.

Again, O Almighty God, I render thanks for the providential care which watched over me throughout the silent hours of the bygone night, and brought me forth into the light of a new day. I pray that Thou wouldst keep me ever mindful that I must lie down ere long in the sleep of death, and wake no more here among my fellow-creatures. And do Thou enable me, while my day of grace lasts, so to do its work under Thy all-seeing eye, that I may be allowed to fall asleep in Jesus, and to wake anew in the light of an eternal day, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my prayer, Our Father, etc.

4. MONDAY EVENING.

OMNIPOTENT Jehovah, Creator, Upholder, and Governor of the world, I again approach the footstool of Thy throne with my homage, my grateful acknowledgments and earnest supplications. Another day is come and gone; and still I live a monument of Thy mercy and forbearance. Thou broughtest me forth in the morning: under Thy protection I have again reached the close of the day; and I pray that, as in time past, so still Thou wouldst watch over me in the hours of night, and strengthen me, through the refreshment of sleep, for the

performance of the duty which cometh with another day.

Alas, O holy God, I confess that I am unworthy of Thy care. Even from the beginning of life unto this time, I have in many things disobeyed Thy voice and broken Thy law. Though Thou commandest me to flee from sin and all manner of iniquity, I have too often acted as if I knew not the malignity of sin, or the necessity of a propitiatory sacrifice for the redemption of sinners. Instead of striving to be holy in my life and conversation, I have too often allowed unholy and uncharitable thoughts to enter into my mind, and harsh and unseemly language to come out of my mouth, and proud and arrogant manners to appear in my conduct.

I beseech Thee, Almighty Lord, to take possession of my heart, and to purge away all the dross and filthiness of the natural man. Let Thy Holy Spirit dwell within me, and inspire me with all holy desires, and strengthen all good resolutions, and enable me to adorn my Christian profession by a just, a benevolent, a godly, and an honourable life.

Whatever is before me, whether of joy or sorrow, of health or sickness, of wealth or poverty, do Thou make me to be ever mindful of my duty—of thanksgiving, contentment, and resignation, and ever ready to say, 'The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, let His will be done,—the will of a wise, a just, and a holy God.' As Christ passed through earthly sufferings to heavenly glory, so do Thou make me willing to take up my cross and follow Him through good report and through bad report: And while I

strive to maintain a good conscience both toward Thee and toward man, may I never forget to found all my duty on the love of Thee, and to seek Thy approbation and praise rather than the praise of men and the pleasures of the world.

O gracious God, do Thou make all my friends and relatives the objects of Thy special care. Do Thou be pleased to bless and befriend them. Be Thou a sun and shield unto them from day to day. May the protection of Thy almighty arm be ever around them.

Guard my country, and bless it, O Thou Ruler among the nations. Bless our Sovereign and all inferior rulers. May all, the governors and the governed in every earthly kingdom, be made subject unto Thee. Teach them all ever to have the fear of the Lord before their eyes.

Again, O gracious God, I implore the forgiveness of my sins; again, with all reverence, I commit myself to Thy keeping throughout the silent slumbers of the night: and at last, when death, which cometh unto all, shall come to me here, be Thou mercifully pleased to receive me to a sinless and eternal life, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, my Saviour, Himself the first-fruits of the dead, and the giver of eternal life to His people, in whose name and words I conclude my supplications, saying, Our Father, etc.

5. TUESDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and Omnipotent God, at whose word all things came into being, and by whose hand all things are still preserved and sustained, I approach Thee in the morning of another day to thank Thee for the continuance of Thy protection through the bygone night; and I implore Thee to be merciful still in guiding me safely through the dangers of another day.

Lord, I am weak and helpless of myself; continually dependent upon Thee for life and health, for the supply of my temporal wants, for the preservation of my intellectual and spiritual nature, and for the gospel and religious ordinances, in which I am taught to aspire after an eternal life, through my Saviour, Thy Son Jesus Christ.

I acknowledge, O Thou Giver of all good, that man liveth not by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of Thy mouth concerning him, and by the various dispensations and appointments of Thy providential superintendence. Thine is the heavenly bread, the grace which rears the feeble virtues within him, and nourishes the soul unto eternal life. O bountiful God, do Thou evermore give me that bread, and strengthen and refresh my soul with the consolations of Thy Holy Spirit. O make me more and more daily to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness; and grant that the life which I now live, I may live by the faith of Thy holy Son, and agreeably to the revelation of His holy will. May Christ dwell in my heart by faith, and root out every unholy and lawless

desire: and do Thou enable me so to crucify the flesh with the lusts thereof, that I may feel myself to be indeed Christ's, both in the profession of His gospel, and in the influence which His gospel has upon my life and conversation.

O merciful God, I acknowledge my many transgressions in time past; and I pray that they may be forgiven. Let Thy heavenly grace more and more constrain me to forsake and to avoid sin, and the occasions of sin, in time coming. Be Thou pleased to go with me this day through its several duties and dangers and temptations; and be pleased to guide and protect and prosper all those near and dear to me; supply the wants of the poor and needy; and while I pray that Thou wouldst give me this day my daily bread, I beseech Thee that, as often as Thou spreadest a table before me for the refreshment of my body, Thou wouldst remind me at the same time of the nourishment that is necessary for the thriving of my soul, through Jesus Christ, my Lord; and, as He taught me, I pray, Our Father, etc.

6. TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Jehovah, again I offer up my evening sacrifice, and pay my homage unto Thee, the sovereign Lord of heaven and of earth. Again, with all reverence and humility, I render thanks for the good providence which still watches over me, and has brought me in safety to the close of another day. Blessed be

Thy holy name, that, notwithstanding the calamities and diseases with which I am surrounded, I am still alive, and that my daily wants have hitherto been supplied by Thy bounty. Agreeably to Thine original ordination, day and night still revolve, and call Thy creatures alternately to action and to repose. Thou makest the returns of morning and evening to rejoice over me; and whether I awake with the dawn, or lie down to partake of the sleep of night, Thou art ever near to me; yea, Thou keepest me and preservest me from evil, whether it be seen or unseen, whether it be of the day or of the night.

Alas, O holy God, I confess that in Thy sight I am unholy, and impure, and unrighteous, altogether unworthy of Thy care and protection. O forgive my many sins; cleanse me from secret faults, and purge my transgressions away. Renew me in the inner man through the sanctification of the Holy Ghost; and put such a hatred of sin within me as will constrain me to resist and eschew it with all my might, both for my own sake, and on account of its natural malignity and odiousness.

O give me the mastery of myself, and make me both able to discern and willing to do what is right. O give me the power of controlling the flow of thought within me, and of keeping it within the bounds of heavenly wisdom, of holiness and purity, of candour, of benevolence, and righteousness. O grant that, under the influences of the Holy Scriptures and Thy heavenly grace, the meditations of my heart, and the words of my mouth, and the actions of my life, may be acceptable unto Thee through Jesus Christ. Make me to be

watchful and vigilant, and to remember continually that I have enemies and tempters within and without, and am unable of myself to restrain the irregular thoughts which rise up in the mind of the natural man: and while Thou hast duty for me to do in this world, enable me to go out and in before Thee in Thy fear. Make me strong and wise for the doing of the work which still awaits me here; desirous to set an example of diligence and faithfulness for the imitation of my younger friends; and careful, whether I see few or many days, to redeem the time from vanity and trifles, and to remember that 'wisdom'—heavenly wisdom—'is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life old age.'

At whatsoever hour of the day or watch of the night my Lord cometh to take me hence, O grant me to be both willing and ready to bid adieu to this world, and to take my leave of those who are dear to me. Make my latter end to be peace here, and glory and eternal life to be my inheritance afterwards in heaven. And do Thou remind me, as often as I lie down to partake of the rest and refreshment of sleep, that through Jesus Christ alone is bestowed the forgiveness of sin, and rest given to the soul of the sinner. And through Christ be Thou graciously pleased to hear and to accept my prayer, and to keep me both by day and by night, in time and through all eternity. In His name and words I pray, saying, Our Father, etc.

7. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom I live and move and have my being, again with the return of another day I lift my soul unto Thee, and renew my grateful acknowledgments. And most earnestly I pray that as Thou hast protected me through the night, so Thou wouldst be pleased to uphold me still, and to direct my steps through the dangers of this day.

I thank Thee, O Thou Giver and Upholder of life, that the insensibility of sleep has again passed away, and that I am again allowed to waken into life and the remembrance of Thee. O grant that as often as a new day comes with a renewal of life to me, I may consecrate myself anew to Thy service: and while I live, may all my powers, whether of body or of mind, be exercised in the cheerful discharge of the duties which are incumbent upon me. Enable me to set my affections unreservedly on all that is good and just, and holy and lovely, even upon Thyself, O Almighty Father, and upon Thy Son Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, and upon the merciful dispensation which Thou art pleased to administer through Him for the redemption of Thy people.

Alas, O gracious God, I cannot again awake into consciousness and the use of my reason without recollecting that often in my past life I have forgotten Thee and Thy mercies, and received innumerable favours without a sense of obligation. O holy Father, in Thy sight I am nothing save a sinner, a wretched and miserable sinner, unworthy

of Thy regard, and unable to shake off the evil affections which cleave to the inner man. From my very childhood the thoughts of my heart have been evil and perverse; and no day has passed over me without adding to the number of my sins and the amount of my guilt. O righteous Judge, enter not Thou into judgment with me; for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. O let Christ be my Advocate at Thy heavenly tribunal; and through His redemption do Thou justify me freely out of Thy sovereign grace, and clothe me with the righteousness of Christ, and grant me to see an earnest of my future acquittal and salvation in the energy and fruitfulness of my faith while I am still here upon earth.

And while I am here, enable me more and more to walk by faith, and to show that the life and death, the resurrection and ascension, the miracles and doctrines of Jesus have a powerful influence on my life and behaviour in the world. And when at last I reach the end of my journey, and walk through the valley of the shadow of death, be Thou present with Thy mighty aids, and show me the path of life, and take me into the glory of the heavenly Jerusalem, to my Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, beyond the reach of death and sin. And for the sake of this my Lord and Master, I now beseech Thee to hear my prayer and to grant my requests. And hear me while in my Saviour's name and words I conclude my imperfect supplications, saying, Our Father, etc.

8. WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GREAT and glorious Jehovah, who, though Thou art exalted above the heavens, yet condescendest to be mindful of man, I lift up my soul in gratitude unto Thee, and offer up my evening sacrifice in acknowledgment of the mercy which allows me to see the conclusion of another day. Because Thou hast watched over me and followed me with Thine eye in all my ways, I am still alive in the land of the living; and I rejoice to believe that the continuance of my life is the effect of Thy favour, and that, without Thy permission, the sentence of death cannot be executed against me. I bless Thee that I have again passed through the hours of day without going down with the eve into the chambers of the tomb. And I devoutly pray that as Thou again bringest me to the season of repose, so Thou wouldst still defend me amidst the silence and darkness of night. Do Thou grant, if it be Thy holy will, that I may be refreshed in the hours of sleep, and strengthened for whatsoever work or duty awaits me on another day.

Especially, whether my days and nights in this world may be many or few, do Thou keep me from neglecting the health and welfare of my soul; from shutting my eyes against the light of the glorious gospel, and falling asleep under the dominion of a spiritual death. Allow me not to be slothful either in the business of religion or of my own peculiar station and calling. Make me to serve Thee with all zeal and fervency of spirit, and to avail myself of

the lengthening of my days for exemplifying the grace of the gospel and the reality of my own Christian character. O keep me from being wise in my own conceit, from setting my mind on high things, or forgetting the humility which I am bound, as a disciple of Jesus, in all the circumstances and intercourse of life to maintain. Constrain me, while I love others without dissimulation, to abhor what is evil, and to cleave to what is good; to render unto no man evil for evil; and, as much as lieth in me, to live at peace with all men. And do Thou grant, O Thou who art the source of all excellence, that through Thy heavenly aids I may be constant and earnest in prayer, patient in tribulation, given to a suitable exercise of hospitality and almsgiving, and ready to sympathise with my fellow-creatures, whether it be their lot to rejoice or to mourn.

And O, Thou great Father of all, do Thou be pleased to remember in Thy great mercy all with whom I am connected by the ties of a common nature or a common faith. Be the Friend of my friends. Send Thy comforts to the afflicted. May Thy peace rule in all hearts. I pray for my country, my kindred, and my acquaintance. May Thy blessing be upon all I ought to remember when before Thy footstool.

I acknowledge, O just and holy God, that I have greatly sinned and failed in duty, both towards Thee and towards my fellow-creatures, and that I deserve nothing at Thy hand save wrath and punishment. For the sake of Jesus, who appeared in the end of the Mosaic dispensation to put away sin through the sacrifice of Himself, do Thou mercifully forgive me, and send down the in-

fluences of the Holy Spirit into my soul, for the purifying of my evil affections, and the strengthening of my feeble goodness. And if Thou allow the dawn of another morning to visit my eyes, be pleased to raise me up and to bring me forth again in health and strength, for a heartier and more successful observance of Thy holy law. And unto Thee, O Father, and Thy Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, be glory ascribed for evermore. And as Jesus my Redeemer taught me, I now in His name and words conclude my humble prayers, saying, Our Father, etc.

9. THURSDAY MORNING.

AGAIN, with the morning, O Jehovah, I awake and look up and direct my prayer unto Thee. As at Thy command the morning still returns to me and lightens my eyes; so, of Thy great mercy, do Thou shine into my heart with a heavenly radiance, and give more and more the light of the knowledge of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Of old, when Thou madest the heavens and the earth, Thou saidst, 'Let there be light, and there was light;' and still do Thou, compassionating Thy sinful creature, disperse the darkness which blinds the inner man, and enable me to walk by the light of the gospel, and to show forth the praises of Him who hath called me out of darkness to His marvellous light.

Naturally I am blind and ignorant, and weak and sinful, liable continually to stumble in the way of Thy

commandments, and prone to turn aside into the path of folly and error. I confess my wickedness, and am heartily sorry for my sin: I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.—O remember not former iniquities against me, and let Thy tender mercies speedily appear, in constraining me to mourn with a genuine evangelical repentance, and to feel more deeply my utter unworthiness, and my need of a Redeemer. I beseech Thee to strengthen my weakness, and to give me an earnest of forgiveness in a holier and a better life. O keep me far from the way of the wicked; for the way of the wicked is darkness, and they know not at what they stumble. O restrain me from cultivating the favour of them who take pleasure in corrupting others, and bringing their fellow-creatures to shame. O preserve me from the snares and arts of the deceitful, from the lips which drop honey, and the mouth which is smoother than oil, lest I forget the counsels of wisdom and go down to the chambers of death.

With whomsoever I may be called to mingle in society, and whatsoever work or duty I may be required in the course of Thy providence to perform, do Thou enable me to show more and more that the gospel rules within me, and constrains me to be careful of my conduct, in thought, in word, and in deed. Especially do Thou grant me to feel, in the fear of Thee, O Jehovah, and in the reverence of Thy name and sanctuary, that religion has laid a sure foundation of spiritual worth within me. From the fear of Thee and the reverence of Thy holy name, as from a fountain of life, do Thou make the other graces and virtues to flow forth more abundantly into the behaviour

of my remaining days, and to testify the genuineness of my faith in the cheerfulness of my obedience.

What Thou lovest, that do Thou, who Thyself art Love, enable me also to love with my whole heart and soul, and to exhibit in action among my fellow-creatures. And whatsoever Thou hatest, that also do Thou teach me to abhor and eschew,—a proud look; a lying tongue, hands which shed innocent blood, a heart which contriveth wicked imaginations, feet which are swift in running to mischief, a false witness who speaketh lies, a man who soweth discord among brethren, and all things whatsoever that the wicked do contrary to the sound doctrine and wholesome words of Jesus Christ.

Be pleased, O God, to counsel, guide, and protect this day, all who are near and dear to me. May Thy blessings enrich them; may Thy comforts abide in their hearts. Preserve them from trouble, and compass them about with songs of deliverance.

Almighty God, be Thou with me, whithersoever duty calls me to go. If it be Thy holy will, bring me in peace and safety to the evening. And make me to remember my devotional exercises before I seek the repose of sleep, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, who taught me to pray thus: Our Father, etc.

10. THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, I bless Thee for another day, and rejoice that, through Thy mercy, morning and evening still return to me in the land of the living.

The sun, Thy glorious work, still revolves as of old through the heavens, and proclaims Thy greater glory, the glory of the invisible Workman. He cometh forth from the gates of morn, and maketh the day. Again he goeth down the western sky, and leaveth the world to darkness and night. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge concerning Thee, who art the Source of all light, whether material or spiritual, and to whom darkness and light are both alike, and night, shining forth as day, revealeth her most secret deeds.

In every land, whatever language prevails among men, the works of the creation declare to the creature the existence and perfection, the eternal power and Godhead of the Creator. But alas! O God, the whole race of men have gone astray, and lost the knowledge of Thee, O Jehovah, the one true God, and made for themselves false deities, the imagination of their own hearts, and the work of their own hands. And though Thou hast sent Jesus Christ to be the light of the world, I acknowledge that I have not received Him with a suitable heartiness and affection, nor so heard the glad tidings of eternal life as to take up my cross and follow the commands of my Master through the difficulties of the world.

O gracious God, do Thou make me to remember and to feel that in vain have I escaped from the idolatry of the heathen world, unless I flee unto Christ and seek to be delivered from the idols of my own heart,—from my evil passions, affections, and lusts. Do Thou so shine with a heavenly radiance into my dark understanding, that I may see the natural deformity of the inner man.

And do Thou so endow me with spiritual strength, and rectify my wayward will, that I may be able to renounce the dominion of sin, and to give my homage unto Thee as the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can understand his errors? O cleanse Thou me from secret faults. Increase my humility and distrust of myself. Keep me back from presumptuous sins. Yea, keep me from the service of the many idols which the natural man is prone to worship,—money and pleasure, human applause, and earthly possessions.

Enable me, Almighty God, to set my affections unchangeably on worthy objects, even on Thyself, the greatest and the best of beings, and on Thy glory and honour; on the doing of Thy holy will, and the holding forth of the Word of life in my own walk and conversation among men. Give me, I beseech Thee, what Thou knowest to be needful for my temporal accommodation and worldly station, without being injurious to my Christian character and advancement in holiness. If adversity shall come upon me, allow not my heart to fret against Thee, nor to faint under the burden which Thou layest upon me. Instead of being impatient under Thy chastisement, make me to remember that as a father chastiseth the son in whom he delighteth, so Thou chastisest them whom Thou lovest, and refinest their graces in the furnace of affliction. And be Thou pleased to sanctify unto all the sons and daughters of affliction, the trials, bereavements, and chastenings with which Thou, Lord, triest them. Teach them to cast their burden upon Thee. May it be good for them that they are afflicted.

And now, Almighty God, do Thou who hast preserved me through another day, preserve me also through the darkness of the night, and make my sleep to be sweet and refreshing. Out of Thy great mercy, forgive my many sins; and be graciously pleased to send me health and strength for going through the duties of the coming day, for the sake of my Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. In whose name and words I further pray, saying, Our Father, etc.

II. FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, I welcome the light of another day, and bless Thee for the renewal of the gift of life. Again I have lain down and slept and awaked. In the season of darkness and of helplessness I was safe under the light of Thy countenance. And now, in the morning, Thou lookest down upon me with favour, and enlightenest my eyes, and keepest me from sleeping the sleep of death. Again come the hours of day, the time of activity, of labour, and of business, unto man. And do Thou grant that whithersoever duty calls me, I may enjoy Thy protection, and be strong, both in body and mind, for either doing or suffering Thy holy will.

Thine angel encampeth around them who fear Thee, and delivereth them. Let Thy heavenly aids, I beseech Thee, be still around my path, and ward off the assaults of evil. In old time Thou sentest Thine angel to prosper the way of the patriarchs, and to redeem them from evil. O grant me to be of the number of those whom the angels,

Thy ministering spirits, are sent forth to attend, and to assist with their invisible aids.

I acknowledge that though man was originally created in Thy likeness, and crowned with glory and honour, and placed in a rank which was little lower than that of the angels, he has fallen from his high and holy state. I acknowledge that sin, marring the divine likeness within him, cast him out of paradise, and exposed him to Thy righteous displeasure. I acknowledge that I am a sinner, a breaker of Thy holy law, and that unto me, as unto all the sons of Adam, sorrow and calamity, disease and death, are appointed in this world, and judgment in the next. I humbly pray that through the discipline of this world, the precepts of the gospel, and the influences of heavenly grace, I may be delivered more and more from the dominion of sin, and translated into the kingdom of Thy dear Son, and ennobled with the freedom which belongs to the servants of Christ. For His sake,—the sake of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died on earth in atonement of His people's sin, and rose again for their justification and acquittal at Thy dread tribunal,—O do Thou grant me to feel in my heart, and to manifest in my conduct, such repentance, and love, and obedience, such newness of life, and evidences of a true Christian discipleship, as may authorize me to say in the full assurance of faith and the joyful anticipation of eternal life, 'I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor any other creature will be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord.'

O merciful God, forgive Thou my many breaches of Thy

holy law. Uphold me throughout the day by Thy mighty power. And bring me again in safety to the evening with a continually increasing sense and acknowledgment of Thy goodness, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. In whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayer, saying, Our Father, etc.

12. FRIDAY EVENING.

O GREAT and mighty God, whose name is Jehovah, Lord of Hosts, I thank Thee that Thy watchful care and tender mercies still accompany me, and that I am allowed to behold the revolution of another sun in the land of the living. I bless Thee for the extension of my life in the midst of much sickness and many deaths in the surrounding world. While multitudes continually fall around, before and behind, on the right hand and on the left, and yield up their lives to the assault of insidious disease, of the arrow that flieth by day, and of the pestilence that walketh by night, I still remain a monument of Thy forbearance. Thou still holdest my soul in life; and in Thee I still live, and move, and have my being. Though there is but a step between me and the grave, and pain, and weariness, and feebleness tell me that ere long the sentence of death will be executed against me, Thou art still pleased to allow me a respite. Day after day Thou hast allowed me the means and the opportunity of preparation: and, sensible of my sin and my mortality, I pray in the language of a penitent sinner, 'O Jehovah, rebuke

me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, for I am weak. Deliver my soul, and save me for Thy mercy's sake; for in death there is no remembrance of Thee, and in the grave none can give Thee thanks.'

Alas, O God, I am ashamed, and blush to lift up my face before Thee. Holy and reverend is Thy name; and Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, or to look upon iniquity, save with displeasure and abhorrence. Enter not, O God, into judgment with me; for my wickedness is great; my iniquities are infinite. Look upon me in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Mediator between Thee and Thy sinful creatures. When angels sinned, they were cast down into hell, and are kept in chains amid darkness to abide the judgment of the great day. But blessed be Thy holy name, Thou foundest out a ransom for sinful man in the atoning blood of Thine only-begotten Son. For His sake, O let my transgressions be blotted out, and the Holy Spirit, the purchase of His blood, descend from Thee and take possession of my heart, and renew all my powers and faculties and desires into a greater resemblance of Christ's.

O Thou, who of old gavest Thine angels charge over Thy servant, to keep him in all his ways, do Thou still enable me, I beseech Thee, to set my love upon Thee, and to make Thee my shield, and to be strong through Thy might to the withstanding and overcoming of temptation. O preserve me from the adversary of souls, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, and blindeth the minds of unbelievers. And do Thou

grant, O mighty God, that as he was a murderer and a liar from the beginning, and still like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, so I may be ever watchful in guarding my heart, and careful to avoid the occasions of sin and the fellowship of sinners.

And let me never forget that Thou desirest me to pray for others. And I do now commend unto Thee this nation and its Sovereign, the Royal Family, and all the nobility of the land. And may all my relatives and companions and friends have as their portion Thy favour, in which is life. As members of the household of faith, may they serve Thee, the great Master of all.

Especially do I now, O gracious God, commend myself to Thy keeping during the silent watches of the night. O Thou who slumberest not nor sleepest, be pleased to refresh me, soul and body, with rest and sleep. Let the morn again dawn upon mine eyes in peace, and see me coming forth in health and cheerfulness for the duties of another day; for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, who taught me also to pray thus: Our Father, etc.

13. SATURDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and unchangeable God, Maker of the luminaries of heaven, and Dispenser of time unto man in the continual succession of day and night, I thank Thee that I still live, and that reason and memory, and the recollection of Thy goodness, have again returned to me with the light of morning.

Eternity, O God, is Thine. Thy years never fail. But the life of man is uncertain in its duration, and, at the longest, only extends through a few years of time. I bless Thee that, of Thy great mercy, I have not yet passed from time into eternity, and that I still enjoy the Sabbaths, the ordinances, the doctrines and instructions of the gospel. I rejoice that mine eyes have again opened upon the light of morning; and I fervently pray, that as sleep, the similitude of death, has again left me, and I am awaked into life anew, so my strength may be sufficient for the duties of the day, and Thy mercy and favour may go along with me, to protect me from sin, from danger, and from death.

If Thou shalt yet be pleased, O gracious God, to uphold this my earthly and mortal life, be pleased also, I entreat Thee, to promote the life and prosperity of the inner man; to increase and to strengthen the graces of the immortal soul, and to quicken me into a livelier spiritual existence, and more ardent longings after heavenly glory. May the Holy Spirit shed abroad the love of Thee and of man more abundantly in my heart; and may all holy and righteous dispositions, all generous and kindly affections, the fruit of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within me, manifest themselves more fully with my advancing age, and show that I belong unto Christ, and that I will both live to Him now, and die to Him hereafter. In whatsoever manner I may have formerly transgressed Thy law, I pray that I may be washed from mine iniquity, that I may be sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by

Thy Holy Spirit, and may be enrolled among them who are chosen to salvation through the sanctification of the Spirit, and the belief of the truth.

Almighty God, I acknowledge that from Thee I hold everything—life and health, strength, and soundness of mind, worldly means, and a place and portion among men, the perception of moral and spiritual truth, and the hope of forgiveness and of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. These Thy gifts I retain or I restore according to Thy pleasure. My natural poverty and meanness and sinfulness are ever before me. And I pray that all my wants may be supplied out of Thy heavenly stores, and all my sins forgiven through the righteousness of Christ. When I go forth into the world, O grant that the awful realities of another world may keep me from being engrossed by the vanities of this. If aught of evil, seen or unseen, lie in my way, do Thou mercifully protect me, and lead me safely through my course of duty, and bring me in comfort to the season of repose; for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers, saying, Our Father, etc.

14. SATURDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL God, Creator, Upholder, and Ruler of all things, I approach Thee with my evening oblation; and with all reverence and thankfulness I rejoice in the continuance of my life, and the return of the season of prayer.

Day and night still succeed one another in ceaseless revolution. The week still reminds me of the Sabbath and the work of the creation. The seasons, coming forth in their order, mark out years for measuring the flow of time. And while day and night, weeks, and seasons, and years, have been revolving and going their rounds of service, a stream of goodness has flowed down to me from heaven all my life long, and made morning and evening to return to me in joy.

But, alas! O God, all these things will come to an end. After the lapse of ages, the great luminaries of heaven will cease to make day and night and the seasons of the year. And within a few years, it may be a few days, I also shall pass away in death; and the place which now knows me shall know me no more for ever. But Thou, O Jehovah, changest not. Thou art always the same, yesterday, and to-day, and for ever. In Thy sight a thousand years are but as a day; yea, but as a watch of the silent night. Thou art the first, and Thou art the last. And besides Thee there is no God. When Thou commandest man to return to the dust out of which he was taken, he forthwith gives up the ghost, and his body mingles again with the dust of the earth.

O keep me in mind of my mortality, and of my ignorance of the time when the summons of death may arrive. And do Thou so teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom, and become wise unto salvation. O make me daily to consider my latter end, and to familiarize myself betimes with the thought of closing my eyes upon this world, and passing from time into

eternity. And do Thou grant that the daily remembrance of death may constrain me to make daily preparation for the awful event, and so to receive every day from Thee, as if it brought the sentence of death along with it.

While I live, I pray that I may be enabled to live more and more by the faith of Thy dear Son. And do Thou grant that this faith, working through love, may purify my heart, and make me to be of the number of them who will see Thee in heaven. May Thy service, Thy glory and honour, and all the things which pertain to an eternal world, more largely occupy my thoughts and my time in this. And while I pray that Thy kingdom may come into every land with the powerful and persuasive influences of the Holy Ghost, and that Thy name may be hallowed in the inward affections and outward homage of all the nations of the earth, I most fervently pray also, that the vitality of my own faith may be seen in the growing godliness of my own life, and that through grace I may be trained up here for doing Thy will hereafter in heaven.

For the sake of Christ, I implore Thee, O merciful God, to forgive the sins of the past week, and of all my past life. Allow me again to enjoy the refreshment of sleep, and to come forth in the morning to sanctify another Sabbath unto Thee. And do Thou grant that I may cheerfully give a portion of every week unto Thee, who art the Giver of so many weeks and years unto me, —the Giver, not only of this temporal life, but the Dispenser of an eternal life to Thy people, through the Lord Jesus Christ. In whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

SECOND WEEK.

15. SUNDAY MORNING.

O GREAT and glorious Jehovah, who broughtest light out of darkness, and the Lord Jesus Christ out of the mansions of the dead, again, on this the first day of another week, I desire, with all reverence and humility, to remember the work of creation and the work of redemption, and to acknowledge the immeasurable extent of Thy power and goodness in all that Thou hast done from the beginning of time to the present day.

I thank Thee that day and night have revolved to me so long in the land of the living, and that Thou hast again allowed me to open mine eyes upon the light of the day which Christ hallowed by His resurrection from the dead. O may this holy day, the Lord's day, the first day of another week, be acknowledged and honoured, O holy Father, as the chief of days, and as a mean of sanctifying all the other days of the week. And do Thou grant that I may so spend it in the exercise of religion, as to prepare myself, under Thy heavenly blessing, for the services and joys of the eternal Sabbath. While this holy day brings rest and refreshment to my body, may it also strengthen and refine the graces of my soul. In a special manner let my delight

be this day in Thy law, and in the gospel of Thy Son; in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs; and in the hope of an eternal life and a heavenly temple, beyond the sins and toils and weariness of the present world. And, gracious God, do Thou grant me an earnest of the joys of the other world, in enabling me more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness here; and thus to see more and more in my own life and behaviour the virtues which Thou requirest in Thy people—faith and love, holiness, justice, and sobriety, purity, humility, and patience, candour, kindness, and truth.

And, O Almighty King, whose throne is in the heavens, I beseech Thee to send down Thy blessings upon the Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; upon the nobility, the magistracy, and the whole body of the people. And do Thou grant that holiness and righteousness, truth and temperance and honesty, loyalty and prosperity and peace, may so flourish among us, as to make us high above all nations in praise, and in name, and in honour.

Especially, Almighty God, do Thou, on this the holy day of the Sabbath, remember the welfare of the Church over all the earth, and make the souls and the lives of Thy worshippers to feel the beneficial effect of the ordinances of the gospel all the days of the week. Be pleased to send down a rich supply of gifts and graces to Thy ministering servants, and through them, comfort and edification to the congregations of Christ. Teach Thou them, that they may be able to teach others. Fill their minds with the knowledge of heavenly things. Clothe their souls

with holiness, and strengthen and encourage their hearts for the discharge of duty. Be Thou present with them in their various ministrations, whether they present unto Thee the prayers of Thy people, or dispense the word of exhortation, of comfort, or of reproof in their Master's name. And chiefly do Thou enable them to illustrate the precepts of the gospel in their own lives, so that the gainsayers, having no evil thing to say of them or of their Master, may be ashamed, and the believer, beholding in them the happy fruits of the gospel, may be gladdened and encouraged in the profession of his faith.

O remember the temporal and spiritual wants of the heathen world. Extend the knowledge of the arts and the blessings of civilisation to the barbarous and ignorant nations. Send Thy ministers and missionaries into every land, and among every kindred and race of men, with the message of salvation. And do Thou grant that this message of salvation, coming with a divine power into my own heart, may be the forerunner of Thy forgiveness and favour in another world, through Jesus Christ my Redeemer and Instructor; in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, which art in heaven, etc.

16. SUNDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, Eternal, Infinite, Invisible, I adore Thine unspeakable excellence and glory, Thy goodness, Thy mercy, and grace. Holy art Thou in Thy nature; holy in Thy word, Thy works, and Thy ways.

I thank Thee that Thou hast separated the Sabbath from the other days, and hallowed it, and given it as a sacred rest unto man for the furthering of his spiritual improvement, and the training of his immortal soul for an eternal life in another world. And I fervently pray that the influence of this holy day,—its praises, prayers, instructions, and meditations, may be felt through all the other days of the week in constraining me to lead a holy life. Enable me to see and to love the beauty of holiness more and more. I know that without holiness no man shall see Thee in glory. O may I keep holiness always in my eye, and follow it earnestly, and acquire it more abundantly.

Sensible of my own natural weakness, and the insufficiency of human devices, I implore Thee to purify my heart through the faith of Christ and the influences of the Holy Ghost. Remembering that Thou commandest us to be holy as Thou art holy, I beseech Thee to assist me in eschewing whatsoever is evil in the surrounding world, and in cleansing myself, under the influence of Thy gracious promises and heavenly grace, from all filthiness both of flesh and of spirit—from sensuality, malignity, pride, envy, and every evil communication whatever of word or of deed.

If Thou art pleased to visit me with that chastisement whereof all Thy children are partakers, I pray, O Holy Father, that I may derive profit from the chastisement, in becoming more and more a partaker of Thy holiness. And, O Thou Eternal God, who wast pleased to hallow the Sabbath, and to declare the blessedness of the man that keeps it, do Thou grant that I may so sanctify the

Sabbath in its several duties, and so carry the spirit of the Sabbath into all the business of the week, that I may daily exhibit more of the Christian's life of faith among my fellow-creatures in the world, and may feel how sweet is the fruit of sabbatical observances to the believer—holiness now, and in the end, everlasting life.

O make my country to be eminent for holy Sabbaths, as well as for worldly greatness,—for the liberty wherewith Christ makes His people to be free from the dominion of sin, as well as for the civil liberty by which we are distinguished among the nations of the earth. Bless my Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; the nobility, magistracy, and commonalty of the land. And do Thou grant that peace, and safety, and good government, and abundance of temporal prosperity may everywhere prevail.

Let my relations, and all that are near and dear to me, be near and dear to Thee also, and enjoy the relationship of sons and daughters in Thy heavenly household through Jesus Christ.

May the congregation with which I join in sanctifying the Sabbath and worshipping Thy great name, thrive before Thee in all spiritual and temporal good. And do Thou acknowledge us for a living branch of the true vine, and so nourish our souls with Thy heavenly grace, that we may more and more grow in the knowledge of Christ, and be fruitful in every good work and holy thought.

Look down in mercy upon the miseries of a sinful world. Befriend the friendless; relieve the necessities of the indigent; enlighten the minds of the ignorant; eradi-

cate the weeds of error, and plant the seeds of religion in their stead. Give the sufferer to reap the proper fruit of affliction in a growing holiness, both of heart and of life. Make the murmurer to subject his will unto Thine, and to rectify his temper and dispositions into the likeness of Christ's. And do Thou, who searchest and knowest the heart, and turnest it whithersoever Thou wilt, dislodge the great spiritual enemy from the hearts of Thy frail and sinful creatures, and take Thou possession for Thyself, with Thy gifts, and graces, and spiritual joys.

May the truths which have this day been proclaimed throughout the churches of Christendom, for the instruction, the comfort, and the edification of Thy people, dwell permanently in their memories, and sanctify their hearts, and regulate their lives. And, O gracious God, may Thy Sabbaths, and ordinances, and commandments, be so loved and kept and obeyed in the lands where Christ is already known, that the heathens, hearing of the loveliness of the Christian character, may hail the arrival of the gospel among them, and give their hearts and their lives to the Son of God.

And now, O merciful God, forgive the imperfection of my religious services this day, and the innumerable transgressions of the former Sabbaths and years of my life, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my prayers, Our Father, etc.

17. MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Creator of all things, whether they be animate or inanimate, in heaven or on earth, I, Thy sinful creature, desire to approach Thy throne with my homage and supplication. Thou gavest me life at first, and, hitherto, notwithstanding my unthankfulness and neglect of Thy holy commandments, Thou hast been pleased to uphold my life, to supply my perpetually returning wants, and to allow me the means of grace and the hope of glory. I pray Thee, for Christ's sake, to forgive all my past transgressions, and to strengthen me through Thy heavenly grace for a better discharge of my duties in the various relations of life.

Thou watchest over me and preservest me from danger, and givest me repose during the silence of night. Be still pleased to defend me from the dangers of day; from sickness, affliction, calamity, and death; from all evils, temporal and spiritual, especially from the evil of sin; from envy, discontent, and malice; from idleness, covetousness, and falsehood. Into whatever company I may be cast, and whatever may be the events which await me this day, O keep me mindful of Thy universal presence, and make me to stand in awe, and to beware of sinning against Thee, in thought or word or deed. Let no disappointment or affliction or adversity affect my allegiance toward Thee, or my good-will toward my fellow-creatures. Grant me still, as I grow in years, to grow in faith and hope and love. Increase my faith; and whether

it be good or evil that is still coming to me, do Thou make me to confide implicitly in the wisdom of Thy dealings with Thy creatures. Whatever Thou appointest for me here, let the gospel be the rule of my conduct; and let hope, the hope of heaven, be lively within me, through the sacrifice of Christ and the sanctifying influences of His Spirit. And may these influences of His Spirit nourish in my heart, and manifest in my life, the principle of love, the great principle which the gospel lays down as the foundation of all the Christian graces.

I beseech Thee, O Thou universal Parent, to bless all my relatives, friends, and companions. Make us mutually helpful in forwarding one another's spiritual welfare. And if any one, however dear to me, fall off from Christ, allow me not, I beseech Thee, to follow him in the doing of what is evil.

I beseech Thee, Almighty God, in behalf of the Sovereign, of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; of the nobility and the magistracy; of the civil, religious, and educational institutions, and all the inhabitants of the land. And I pray that I and all of us may be enabled, through Thy grace, to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, and in all things to aspire after the doing of that which is good and acceptable in Thy sight, O Thou great Sovereign and Ruler of us all.

May magistracy, both in our own and in all lands, be blessed of Thee for the maintenance of justice and security among men, for the punishment of evil-doers,

and for the praise and protection of them who do well. Let them who rule over men be just themselves, and rule, as vicegerents of Thine, in Thy fear. Whatever be the glory of their kingdoms, let their chief glory be, to observe righteousness and truth in their dealings with their fellow-creatures, both at home and abroad. Enable them to restrain the love of war and conquest, and to obtain the most glorious of victories in subduing their internal enemies,—their own evil passions and ambitious desires,—and in the promoting of peace on earth and good-will among men.

Give the knowledge of the gospel, I beseech Thee, unto the whole heathen world. Bring off the Jews from their unbelief, and unite them to the Church of Christ. And do Thou grant us an earnest of the glory of the latter days, in allowing us now to see more and more the power of the gospel over the hearts and lives of men in every land. And, O gracious God, do Thou make me to feel the growing power of the gospel within myself, and to live daily more and more conformably to the privileges which I enjoy as a disciple of Christ.

And if it be Thy holy will, let me again see the close of day, and enjoy the refreshment of sleep under the protection, O Jehovah, of Thine all-seeing eye. And I humbly implore Thee to be merciful and gracious to me both by day and by night, both in time and through eternity, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Advocate, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

18. MONDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, Lord of lords and King of kings, who hast preserved me alive amidst the dangers of another day, and still allowest me to enjoy Thy goodness in the land of the living, I beseech Thee to keep me safe under the shadow of Thy wings throughout the darkness of the night.

The day and the night are the same to Thee. Thou neither slumberest nor art weary. Thy energy is continually felt throughout the whole extent of the mighty world. Nothing is too hard for Thee. I know that Thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from Thee.

O everlasting God, who, never weary Thyself, givest power to the faint, and increasest the strength of the feeble, refresh, I entreat Thee, all the powers and faculties of my wearied frame in the slumbers of night. Strengthen me, especially in the inner man—my moral and spiritual nature—with Thy heavenly influences, so that I may be enabled to run my Christian race without fainting, and to feel that they who wait upon Thee shall renew their strength.

Alas! often have I fallen, and incurred Thy righteous displeasure. Forgive, I beseech Thee, for my Saviour's sake, the many failures and backslidings and shortcomings of my past life. Reduce every wayward passion and every unruly affection to the subjection of the gospel. Make my will to acknowledge the dictates of Thy holy law. Cleanse the secret recesses of my soul from every thought of sin.

Draw off my desires from unworthy objects to Thyself. For the sake of the spotless righteousness of Christ, blot out the remembrance of my unrighteousness; and do Thou grant that in the end I may be justified at Thy awful tribunal, and accepted as righteous, through the righteousness of Christ.

While I am still alive on earth, O keep me humble and willingly dependent upon Thee; mindful of my sinfulness and my unworthiness; earnestly desirous of spiritual attainments; and truly thankful for the great mercy which Thou hast shown to me in offering me eternal life through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ. And do Thou grant that, while with all thankfulness I look to the Cross of Christ and plead His merits and intercession, I may ever cheerfully bow to His sceptre, and look for acceptance with Thee, only in so far also as I yield obedience to the statutes of His kingdom.

I beseech Thee, Almighty Lord, in behalf of the Sovereign, of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; of the nobility and magistracy; of the army and navy; of the churches and civil institutions, and all the inhabitants of the land. And do Thou, who art King of Zion, and King of all the earth, send down Thy grace so abundantly into their hearts, that, whatever may be their rank or portion in this world, they may be faithful subjects in the kingdom of heaven.

O keep us loyal in our earthly allegiance. Allow no tumult or sedition to rise up in the land. Establish the nation in peace and plenty, in a greater love of religious ordinances, and a more thoughtful enjoyment of spiritual

and temporal good. And when, forgetful of her heavenly Teacher, she strays into irreligious courses, do Thou bring her back to repentance, and forgive her apostasy, and remove Thy judgments far from her borders.

Bless us all individually. Nourish up the saint in the knowledge of his Lord, and in the hope of heaven. Arrest the sinner in his downward course, and lead him into the way of righteousness, the way wherein is life. Repay out of Thy heavenly treasures the favours which my relatives and benefactors and friends have shown unto me. Remove all enmity and grudges and evil intentions out of the hearts of my enemies. Bestow a placable disposition upon myself. Enable me to show unto others the kindness and forgiveness which I seek from Thee. And let all them whose earthly comforts are diminished by sickness, or poverty, or affliction, be refreshed by the heavenly message and gracious offer which the Lord Jesus Christ propounds in the gospel for the acceptance of the penitent believer.

And do Thou, O merciful God, enable me to feel that I have myself so faithfully and so fully accepted of the offer as to be living under the influence of His word and Spirit. And now, in His name and words, I conclude my prayers, Our Father, etc.

19. TUESDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY Creator, Thou Giver and Upholder of my life, I humbly thank Thee that I have passed through the watches of the night without sleeping the

sleep of death. At Thy command the darkness goeth away and the daylight returneth; and of Thy goodness it is that my eyes are again enlightened with the light of another morning. As I have slept and waked under Thy protection, so may I go through the duties of the day in Thy fear, and strive to commend myself unto Thee, by doing all things in the name and to the honour of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Enable me to direct my steps by His holy precepts, and to feel the salutary influence of the gospel in the sanctifying of my affections and my behaviour. O make me thankful for the means of religious improvement, and mindful of the baptism in which I was presented to my Redeemer, and devoutly and unceasingly solicitous to obtain the spiritual regeneration and nourishment which His sacraments from time to time set before my eyes. May I so read the Scriptures as thereby to become wise unto salvation. May I so hallow the Sabbath as thereby to hallow and to purify my own soul. I am Thy creature—fallen, wilful, and disobedient. Do Thou control my wayward inclinations, and overrule me in all my doings. Put Thou my tongue under the guidance and control of heavenly wisdom, and make me to beware of that multitude of words in which sin is not wanting. Turn away my eye from the view of vanity; nor suffer that to be an inlet to dishonesty and uncleanness, through which Thou openest up to me the glories of the creation, and teachest me to see the hand of a Creator. Close my ears against the solicitations of sin: Keep me from all filthy talk and corrupting communications: Teach me the danger of listening to them who disown the doctrine of Jesus: And

make me to beware of such deceivers as would either flatter myself or speak evil of others. Restrain my feet from running to evil; restrain me from following after them who have gone astray from Thee. And do Thou so deeply impress upon my mind the folly and the misery of walking in the way of sinners, that I may assiduously cultivate the friendship of Thy faithful people, and rejoice to be the companion of those who go up to Thy house, and keep Thy holy day.

Look down in favour, O Heavenly Father, upon the Messiah's Church, and prosper her labours, and multiply and increase her resources and her influence among men. Carry her holy warfare throughout the whole world into the dominions of ignorance and superstition and unbelief. Subjugate all the kingdoms and states and provinces of the earth to the easy yoke of Christ. And wherever there is darkness, wherever there is woe, wherever there is thraldom either of body or of mind, there do Thou proclaim the compassionate message of the gospel, and stretch forth the helping hand of a Saviour, and establish the glorious liberty which pertains unto the saints, even reformation of life, and the supremacy of holiness, of sobriety and honesty, in the room of irreligion and selfishness and strife.

Especially do I pray that the power of the gospel may be felt in our own land; and that Thou wouldst send down Thy best blessings on the Sovereign and all the Royal Family, the nobility and magistracy, the army and navy, and the whole body of the people, in whatsoever lling or profession they may be righteously engaged;

and more particularly on all those with whom I am connected in the business and intercourse of life, and in the various relations of friendship and kindred.

And now, O Father of mercies, I implore Thee to forgive the sin of my soul. And out of Thy great liberality be Thou pleased to provide for the wants of my body day by day. Where I am ignorant and ask amiss, do Thou enlighten me in the knowledge of all my wants, spiritual as well as temporal. And do Thou teach me to ask aright through the merits of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my prayers, Our Father, etc.

20. TUESDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, my Preserver and Protector, in whose hand is the breath of all mankind, I humbly thank Thee that Thou hast saved me from the dangers of another day, and still upholdest me in life. The day is Thine; the night also is Thine; O Thou who makest the returns of my mornings and evenings to rejoice. Thy mercies and compassions are new to me every morning; and when I lay myself down for rest at night, Thou art my Keeper, preserving me from the pestilence which walketh in darkness, and making me to dwell in safety, and to take the refreshment of sleep in peace as beneath the shade of Thy pavilion.

Alas! though Thou art ever kind, I am unthankful and disobedient; a creature unworthy of the Creator's care; a

sinner, condemned to punishment by the voice both of my own conscience and of Thy holy laws. To Thee, O Sovereign Lord of the whole creation, the homage of my whole life is due; and I acknowledge that every transgression is an act of rebellion against Thee, and subjects the transgressor to the penalty which the law has denounced against the transgression. For Christ's sake, O merciful Father, I beseech Thee to forgive whatsoever sins I have committed against Thee this day, and all the days of my former life. And I most fervently implore of Thee, that Thou wouldst enable me, through the teaching of Thy Holy Spirit, so to see the malignity of sin in the Cross of Christ, that I may loathe it and renounce it on Christ's account.

O strengthen me to resist the temptations and evil examples of the world. Enable me to look continually unto Jesus as my best Counsellor and surest Guide in the difficulties of life. Keep me out of the society of the scoffer and of the swearer, and of all that make a mock at sin. And allow not the evil counsels of a companion to draw me off from the fellowship of Jesus to the sinful amusements and sensual pleasures of the world.

Be pleased so to order all the circumstances of my life, whether they be joyous or afflictive, as thereby to further my salvation and to ripen me for heaven. O give food and raiment for my body here, and nourish my soul with Thy heavenly grace for the life which is eternal. And do Thou, if it be Thy holy will to preserve me for the duties of another day, again refresh my body with rest in the silence of the night. And when Thou shalt call me hence, be

pleased to give rest and peace and joy to my soul in Thy heavenly kingdom.

I beseech Thee, O Thou universal Parent, in behalf of all men. Especially may they upon whom I am bound to look with an eye of special affection, grow daily in the favour of their Redeemer. May the throne of the Sovereign be established in righteousness; and the magistracy be blessed and owned among us as Thine own ordinance for the good of Thy people. Peace be upon the churches of this land, and upon all the followers of the Redeemer throughout the world. And do Thou grant that the doctrines and ordinances of the gospel, wheresoever they are known, may administer comfort to the souls under the various evils and calamities of life.

Extinguish all heresies, disorders, and confusions throughout the Church. And let the truth, wherever it may have heretofore been suppressed or perverted by the fraud or ignorance of man, again appear in its former glory and authority. Them who are misled by their own blind enthusiasm, or the evil counsel of a false philosophy, do Thou bring to acknowledge the sovereign authority of Scripture in matters of religion,—to try their own spirits by the test of the written word, and to beware of receiving the illusions of the imagination, or the suggestions of Satan, or the convictions of an erring conscience, for the decisions of the Holy Ghost.

Again, Almighty God, I beseech Thee to hear my prayers for the sake of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And now, in His name, and with words which He has Himself provided for me, I further pray, Our Father, etc.

21. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY God, at whose command light came out of darkness, and the revolution of day and night began, I thank Thee that Thou again allowest me to come forth from the darkness and slumbers of night into the light and life of day. I implore Thy protection still; and I beseech Thee to guide me aright through the duties to which the day again calls me.

I know not what difficulties lie in my path. I foresee not what events the day may bring forth. But I thank Thee, O merciful God, that hitherto I have been visited with so many comforts; and that, in comparison of my sins, my sorrows and afflictions have been so few. If it be Thy holy will, O still preserve me, whithersoever I go, and defend me from danger and calamity; from sickness, disease, and death; especially from sin and its consequences,—guilt and remorse, and the punishment of hell. Be Thou to me a shield in the time of peril; a consolation in the hour of affliction; a refuge from the adversities, the disappointments, and enmities of the world. And whatever may befall me in life, I pray that it may further the welfare of my immortal soul, and find me growing in the love of Thee and of man, and abounding in the fruits of holiness, sobriety, and truth, and practically testifying to all around me a sincere repentance towards Thee, and a lively faith towards Jesus Christ.

I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast revealed the mystery of salvation through Thy

Son Jesus Christ. I see in this mystery, and I feel within myself the misery of sin. I rejoice in the redemption which flows from the death and sacrifice of Christ; and I pray that I may be enabled to manifest the reality of my faith in giving to Christ the government of my heart and life. O grant that, through the blood of Thy dear Son, I may have redemption, even the forgiveness of my sins; and may the influence of His word and Spirit appear visibly in the growing holiness of my present life, and prepare me for the eternal life which He bestows upon His people.

And while I acknowledge the mystery which Thou hast revealed in Jesus, do Thou grant that I may be enabled to hold this mystery—the mystery of faith—with a pure conscience, and in the constant remembrance of the obligations which it lays upon me. O make me to strive that to my faith may be added virtue, even the discharge of the various duties which the manifold relations of human life require at my hands. And do Thou, O mighty God, who alone canst give effect to my diligence and my exertions, grant me so to abound in temperance, and patience, and godliness, and brotherly kindness, and charity, as to prove that I am neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this knowledge may be carried to every land, and that the Lord Jesus Christ may be acknowledged as the Son of God among all the nations of the earth, His doctrines received as the highest wisdom, His Sabbaths hallowed with religious ordinances, and His precepts obeyed in the lives and behaviour of men. And most earnestly

I entreat of Thee that, wherever the gospel has been obscured either in its doctrines or its ordinances by the inventions of erring men, Thou wouldst send down a heavenly light into the soul, and enable Thy people to see and to understand the truth as it came from Jesus.

Let Thy best blessings descend on my Sovereign and all the Royal Family, on the nobility, the magistracy, and all the inhabitants of the land, and more particularly upon them with whom I am more closely connected in the duties and obligations of life.

And now, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for His sake, I implore of Thee the acceptance of my services, and in His words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

22. WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, Maker of all things, and Sustainer of the life of every living creature, again, in the deepest humility, I approach Thy throne to acknowledge Thy sovereignty and providential care in bringing me safely to the close of another day. I thank Thee that I still enjoy Thy favour and compassionate regard in the continuance of my life and the supply of my wants. Thou hast preserved me in time of danger. Thou hast borne with me amidst my sins and my provocations. The opportunity of repentance and amendment is not yet withdrawn. I am still in the land of the living, and the proclamation of eternal life still sounds in my ears.

Alas! O God, I have not valued as I ought the precious

and inestimable advantages of the gospel. I have not anxiously sought that Christ should dwell in my heart. I have not striven with all my might to show my love of Christ, and to walk worthily of my discipleship in the world. My soul cleaves to the earth; and my admiration, my desires and hopes, are directed to less glorious and worthy objects than the joys of heaven. My sins are innumerable; and without Thine aid I am utterly weak and helpless against them.

Forgive, O merciful Father, the transgressions of my past life; and let Thy grace constrain me to a more dutiful obedience for the future, if Thou shalt still be pleased to spare me. Replenish my mind with good desires; and enable me, through Thy mighty aid, to bring them to good effect. Open my heart more and more to the entrance of heavenly truth. Let the calls of the gospel overpower the clamour and violence of unholy passions within me. And do Thou, out of Thy great goodness, enable me to give my thoughts to worthy pursuits, to delight in Thee and in Thy people above all earthly comforts, to keep Thy Sabbaths and ordinances, and to meditate in Thy law day and night.

All things, O universal Lord, are Thine. My life, my strength, my reason, my worldly means, my relatives and friends, come all of them from Thee. According to Thy good pleasure, Thou givest or Thou takest away. Do Thou enable me, whether Thou givest or whether Thou takest away my comforts, to accept of the dispensation with cheerfulness, and to pray that it may be available for its proper purpose—the quickening of my love of Thee, and the mortifying of my love of sin.

O do Thou continue unto me whatsoever is an advantage or ornament to my earthly lot; and let that which has hitherto in any degree administered to my religious comfort, be still a source of joy to me through the remainder of my life. Out of that which is evil in my earthly lot do Thou mercifully bring good—spiritual good, for the benefit of my soul; and when the spiritual good has been obtained, grant, if it be Thy holy will, that the instrumental evils may be removed. And do Thou make me so to remember the bitterness of the dispensation, that, though it be gone, it may be ever present in its effects upon my life, even in a growing holiness of thought, of speech, and behaviour.

I beseech Thee also in behalf of the whole human race, the great family of which I am myself a member. Out of the abundance of Thy stores, and the riches of Thy grace, do Thou, in Thine own time and way, grant unto all of them that of which they stand in need—health to the sick, strength to the weak, consolation to the dying, humility to the proud, a comfortable sense of Thy favour to the penitent, a generous disposition to the rich, an unrepining disposition to the poor, and civilisation and science, along with the gospel, to the heathen and barbarous nations.

Especially do Thou grant that my own country may flourish in all spiritual and temporal good,—in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce,—but, above all things, in the righteousness which establishes the throne and exalteth the nation.

I implore Thy favour in behalf of my Sovereign and the

Royal Family, of the judges and magistrates who exercise authority in the land, and of all the inhabitants, nobility, gentry, and commonalty. Be Thou graciously pleased to assist them in the discharge of the duties which belong to them, according to their stations, professions, and circumstances.

And I further entreat Thee in behalf of all those of my fellow-creatures to whom I am more particularly united by kindred or friendship, or neighbourhood, or feelings of gratitude. Do Thou grant that they may so walk in Thy commandments and ordinances as to be dear unto Thee also, and receive the adoption of children, and become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

And now, O Almighty God, I commend myself to Thy care through the night; and I implore Thee to waken all my faculties into life anew in the morning, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

23. THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD God of Hosts, again I appear with my homage at Thy throne, and consecrate another day unto Thee. Thou, O Jehovah, art my King and my God. There is none like unto Thee; and besides Thee there is no God. Thou seest throughout all space and throughout all time. From the beginning Thou declarest the end. From ancient times Thou revealest the things which are not yet done. Whatsoever Thou

pleasest, that wilt Thou accomplish. Yea, Thy counsel will stand; and Thou wilt do all Thy pleasure.

With shame and confusion of face do I acknowledge my forgetfulness of Thy sovereignty, and of my own bounden loyalty—the loyalty which, as a creature, I owe to Thee, the Creator. Often have I disregarded Thy will, and disobeyed the laws of Thy kingdom, and sought happiness independently of Thee, from whom everything comes, and of whom everything is held. I have not made Thee my stronghold. But I have lived as if I trusted in the abundance of my own strength and health, my own wisdom, devices, and friends. Long have vain thoughts lodged within me; and the corruption of my inward nature appears in unprofitable conversation, in wayward passions, and unholy conduct.

I look unto Thee, O Jehovah: O let me be saved from myself—saved from the evil powers which reign within me in the inner man. O let Thy word go forth in power, and proclaim effectually within me, 'Wash thine heart, O sinner, from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved;' for Thou, O Jehovah, art the only Saviour; and besides Thee there is no Saviour and no God. Out of the great love wherewith Thou lovedst Thy people, and sentest Thy Son to be the propitiation of their sins, do Thou forgive mine iniquities, and sanctify my soul, and redeem me from the power of sin, and give me an earnest of an eternal redemption, in giving me now a more abundant measure of grace and peace and spiritual joy.

Unto Thee, Almighty God, and not unto myself, do I ascribe the blessings and the comforts of my earthly

lot. Thou art the Owner and the Dispenser of the whole; and unto me Thou dealest out such a portion as to Thy wisdom seemeth meet. O keep me humble in the day of prosperity; and make me to remember, that howsoever much I may receive, I am entitled to nothing at Thy hands. O let it not be said of me, as of the fool, that worldly prosperity destroys my soul. O let not the increase of my earthly means beget intemperance or avarice or pride. O let not Thy mercy and kindness prove my destruction and my shame, instead of softening my hard heart into dutiful obedience.

In the season of adversity, do Thou enable me still to put my trust in Thee, and, instead of murmuring or repining, to seek the best riches in Thy heavenly blessing, and to esteem godliness with contentment great gain. Do Thou so influence my soul with the desire of the heavenly world and its imperishable treasures, that I may cease from an inordinate pursuit of earthly riches. And do Thou grant, that I may be able to preserve my integrity amidst all difficulties, and to acknowledge that better is a little, with the fear of Thee, than great treasure and trouble therewith—better a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.

O remember the wants of the heathen, and enrich them with the knowledge of Jesus and His heavenly wisdom. Wherever ignorance, or wickedness, or barbarous manners prevail, whether at home or abroad, I pray that Thou wouldst so bless the preaching of the gospel, as to enlighten, to reform, and to civilise my

fellow-creatures, and to make them spiritually rich, who are now poor and blind and naked.

O bless the Sovereign and the Royal Family, the Parliament, the nobility and commonalty, the magistracy, army and navy, and all professions of men throughout the land, especially all those who are dear to me in the more intimate relations of life.

While my earthly pilgrimage continues, let Thy presence be with me, to direct my steps, to ward off temptation, to console me in the season of affliction, and to supply my daily wants out of Thy abundant stores, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

24. THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, under whose protection I rise up in the morning and lie down in the evening, again, on the return of evening, I approach Thy throne with my homage, and commend myself, soul and body, to Thy fatherly care.

Thou art the Former of my body, and the Father of my spirit. I am the workmanship of Thy hands. I belong, with everything that I have, unto Thee; and Thy will is the rule which I am bound to know and to obey. Thou hast given me the various faculties of an intelligent nature; and to all Thy gifts Thou hast added the instructions of Thy Son and the ordinances of His religion.

Alas! O God, like the whole race of men, I have gone far astray in the ways of sin, and am guilty of the greatest ingratitude towards Thee and Thy holy Son. Notwithstanding the urgent calls of the gospel, I have not hastened to flee, as a lost and miserable sinner, to the refuge which is set before me in the blood of Christ. I have not sought for the influences of the Holy Ghost with such stedfastness and earnestness as my sinfulness and my necessities require.

Alas! O God, conscience tells me what manner of person I am in Thy sight; how full of evil thoughts and vain wishes; how careless of the welfare of others; how proud and envious, and stubborn and selfish; how thankless, both for my daily bread, and for the offer of immortality; and unwilling to be reclaimed from error, either by judgments or mercies—by the inward voice of reason, or the external call of the gospel. O forgive my past transgressions. O keep me from filling up the measure of my iniquities. Give me not over, as irreclaimably lost, for everlasting punishment and woe; and let me yet, through Thy mighty aid, escape the damnation of hell. I see the greatness of my guilt in the holiness of the law which I have transgressed; and I confess the severity of Thy wrath in the awful threats which the law denounces against impenitent transgressors. O rescue me from sin, ere sin prove my ruin. O bring me back with Thy mighty arm from my errors and wanderings; and make me yet to abide in safety under Thy influence and protection. As a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, so do Thou gather Thy

straying children together out of the world unto Thyself; and let me be secure, under the shadow of Thy wings, from the assaults of Satan, of evil companions, and my own treacherous heart. Teach me betimes the wisdom of fleeing to a place of refuge, and of hailing the offers of deliverance with the most gladsome acclamations: 'Blessed be He who cometh in the name of the Lord!' And blessed be Thou, O Jehovah, for the gift of a Saviour, who is now exalted to give repentance and forgiveness of sin unto His people.

O Almighty God, Father of my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, do Thou enable me to confess my Saviour with a lively and an active faith, and to feel the genuineness of my faith, in the depth of my repentance for past transgression, and in the cheerfulness and the extent of my obedience all the days of my future life. Through the influence of the gospel and Spirit of Christ, do Thou more and more eradicate my sinful affections, and implant better principles and a holier disposition in their stead. Create in me a clean heart; renew a right spirit within me. Keep the doors of my lips, and put truth in the inner man. Enlighten the eyes of my understanding. Make my paths plain before me. Lead me onward in the way which leads to happiness and to heaven. And do Thou grant that the meditations of my heart, and the words of my mouth, and the whole procedure of my life,—flowing from a true and living principle of faith, and finding favour in Thy sight through the intercession of Christ,—may issue hereafter in the hallelujahs and holier services and enjoyments of Thy heavenly kingdom.

Almighty God, I remember, as by my Christian profession I am bound, the welfare of the whole of my fellow-creatures. Give the gospel to the heathen, and a heartier obedience and a more abundant comfort to them who already profess to be disciples of Christ. Let all my friends and relations, benefactors and wellwishers, be also friends and brethren of the Lord Jesus, and enjoy sweet fellowship with Him in the ordinances of His religion. Unto the poor and the sorrowful, the sick and the dying, do Thou dispense such relief and consolation as Thou knowest to be best for their eternal welfare. Bless the Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family, the Parliament, the magistracy, and all the people of the land. And do Thou grant us to enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity, both at home and abroad. And now, Almighty God, when I again seek the refreshment of sleep, may I lie down in peace and safety under Thy protection, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

25. FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Creator, at Thy command, morning and evening still succeed one another as of old. I thank Thee for the goodness which allows me to see the return of another day in the land of the living. And most earnestly do I pray that, as I begin the day with thoughts of Thee, so Thou wouldst enable me to pass

through its business and its cares in the remembrance of Thy holy law.

I acknowledge my weakness and my sinfulness alike. I am ignorant, and I know not what a day may bring forth, either of joy or of sorrow. The remembrance of my past failures and transgressions fills me with shame and sorrow. And no power, save Thy heavenly grace, is able to give me the victory over my own sinful nature. Be pleased, Almighty Lord, to look down upon me in mercy, to enlighten my mind in the knowledge of Christ and of all Christian duty, and to strengthen me, soul and body, for whatever toil or trouble or temptation may await me in the world.

Of Thy great compassion, and for the sake of my Saviour Jesus Christ, who alone can make atonement for my sin, do Thou more and more subdue the principle of evil within me, and bring all my purposes and likings and desires under the authority of the gospel. Do Thou remove all prejudices from my mind, and keep my judgment from being misled by false representations of sin. Do Thou so purify my affections that I may loathe vice in whatever form its seductions may appear. Do Thou so increase my love of all spiritual excellence, as to prevent my soul from being enslaved to the appetites of the body. And do Thou so stablish my will and inclination, and all my faculties, on the side of what is good, that I may be able to adhere stedfastly unto Christ, and to make His favour the supreme object of my desire.

Give me to feel that the true value of man consists in the graces of the soul. Kindle the divine principle of

love within me into a brighter flame. Imbue my heart with a purer relish for the beauties of holiness. Enable me to show that my sanctification, both in soul and body, is, agreeably to the Creator's will, the great object which I have ever in view. And do Thou grant that, cleansing the inward man from all unholy thoughts, I may be holy in all manner of life and conversation—sober and temperate, meek and humble, thinking that only which is good, speaking such words as are true and tend to edification, and doing in all things whatever is worthy of the Christian name and acceptable unto Thee through Jesus Christ.

O send the gospel, with its illuminating, its consoling and purifying influences, over the whole heathen world. And do Thou so quicken our own dead souls, through Thy word and Spirit, that religion may be the glory of our land, and our name may be exalted among the nations of Christendom, and the heathen, seeing the beneficial effects of the gospel in our own lives, may receive it with all readiness of mind at the hand of our missionaries, and show the truth of their discipleship, in bringing forth the fruits of righteousness, of humanity, of sobriety, and peace. And do Thou hasten the arrival of the joyful time, when all the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of the Messiah, and all the kings and kindreds of the nations will fall down before Him and serve Him.

I especially beseech Thee to bless the Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; the Parliament, the nobility, the magistracy, and com-

monalty; and all my kindred, acquaintance, benefactors, and friends.

Let the land flourish before Thee in all its interests —its husbandry, manufactories, and trades; its arts and sciences; its schools and seminaries of learning; and all the societies and institutions which exist among us for ameliorating the condition of our fellow-creatures, and for sending forth the gospel in all its power and beauty among them who now live without God and without Christ in the world.

And now, Almighty God, I beseech Thee to be with me this day, and to grant that I may pass through it and its duties in safety and comfort, and that my omissions, miscarriages, and transgressions may be forgiven for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

26. FRIDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY Creator, agreeably to Thine ordinance, the day and the light again go away, and the night and the darkness return. I again rejoice before Thee that I have seen the revolution of another sun, and am still alive to partake of Thy goodness and mercy. And I humbly entreat Thee to refresh my feeble frame in the slumbers of night, and to awake me with the morning in health and strength for the duties and business of a new day.

I acknowledge that I have not so spent the day which

is now gone as to deserve Thy protection through the night. I pray that, for the sake of Jesus, Thou wouldst overlook my unworthiness, and forgive whatever I have done amiss in thought or word or deed. And if Thou shalt allow me to see the dawn of another day, be pleased also to enlighten the eyes of the inner man, that I may see the path of life, and walk by the light of the gospel. Hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps may not slip. Enable me to walk before Thee in truth and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart. Mercifully remove all stumbling-blocks out of my way, and prevent me from turning aside and straying into the devious paths of sin. My ways are before Thine eyes, and Thou ponderest all my goings. Behold the difficulties and dangers and trials of my life. Send down Thy mighty influences to uphold me in the discharge of my duties. And let Thy Holy Scriptures continually remind me that he who walketh uprightly, walketh surely, and that, through the Lord Jesus Christ, there is now no condemnation to them who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

Father of lights—of all lights, whether they enlighten the material or the spiritual world—unveil, I beseech Thee, Thy glory to me more and more, in enabling me more and more to see the wonders of the great and glorious work of creation. But especially do Thou make me to see and to understand, through the light of the gospel, the great mystery which Thou hast revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Make me to feel and to acknowledge that this great mystery—the manifestation

of Thy Son in human nature—calls me away in the most urgent manner from sin to the exercise of all godliness, both towards Thee and towards man. Let the heartiness with which I receive the gospel of Jesus appear in the obedience which I yield to His precepts and injunctions. Grant that my affections, flowing in their proper channel towards Thee, may be manifested in devotional exercises, and not in the foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. Turn my thoughts to the willing contemplation of the doctrine of Christ in the moments of my retirement, to the regular observance of His ordinances with my fellow-worshippers in the sanctuary, and to the diligent practice of the various virtues and graces which He requires of me in the world. And do Thou grant that I, Thy ignorant and sinful creature, learning and loving Thy will more and more through the aids of the Holy Ghost, and of the services of the Christian Church, may at length be accepted of Thee, and transferred from the temporal life of this world to the eternal life of the next.

Almighty Father, I supplicate Thy favour and mercy in behalf of all men, Thy children, and creatures, frail, ignorant, and sinful, like myself. Whatever be their wants, do Thou graciously supply them. Give health to the sick, comfort to the afflicted, plenty to the needy, prosperity to them who are suffering from losses, and forgiveness to all such as confess and bewail their sins. Give the gospel to the heathen: Bring all the nations of the earth under the authority of the King of Zion. Reform all errors, whether in doctrine or practice, that have

crept into His churches; and make His laws to be better obeyed by the inhabitants of my own country.

Be very gracious to the Sovereign and the magistracy of the land, to my relations and friends, and to all others whom I ought more especially to bear in remembrance when I approach Thy throne.

And now again I beseech Thee, Almighty God, to have mercy upon myself, and to watch over me through the night, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

27. SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL God, Source of existence and of life to the whole material and spiritual world, I extol the goodness which brought me out of nothing and gave me a place among Thy rational creatures. I thank Thee that, out of Thy great forbearance, I am still alive in the participation of Thy goodness. And I mourn that, in time past, I have so often failed to feel and to express the lively sentiments of love and gratitude which Thy gifts require at my hands. Forgive, I beseech Thee, for the sake of Jesus, the manifold transgressions of my former life. O continue Thy mercy still in the upholding of my bodily frame, and the supplying of my daily wants, and the purifying and strengthening of all my spiritual powers. May the Holy Ghost so operate within me in the inner man, that I may yet intensely love and abundantly exhibit the graces and the virtues of the Christian character.

Lord, the graces of Thy people are all imperfect here; and well does it become me, sinful as I am, to be humble before Thee. I am not worthy of the joys of heaven. I am not worthy even of the least of all the mercies which Thou hast shown to me on earth. And as I know not what a day may bring forth, with regard to the pleasures or possessions of this present world, so do Thou keep me from a presumptuous assurance in spiritual matters. And make me more careful of manifesting the righteousness which the kingdom of heaven requires, than of boasting of my attainments among my fellow-sinners.

Thou resistest the proud and givest grace to the humble. Deliver me, I beseech Thee, from pride and an over-weaning estimation of myself; nor allow me so to act, as if I thought of establishing my own righteousness, instead of submitting to the righteousness of the gospel. As pride goeth before destruction, and such as are lifted up by pride are liable to fall into the condemnation of the devil, do Thou give me an earnest of salvation, in giving me greater degrees of humility, of meekness, and of lowliness of mind. And instead of despising others, and trusting that I am myself righteous, may I feel that at the best I am but an unprofitable servant, and that no language so befits me as the language of the ancient penitent, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.'

Enable me to maintain a watchful jealousy over myself, and to fear continually, lest, if I be high-minded, and boast of my faith and spiritual privileges, I may be given over to delusion. Make me more desirous of showing the charity which edifieth than the knowledge which puffeth

up. And as in all things, so also more especially in religion, do Thou keep me from deceiving myself by thinking that I know anything, when I know nothing as I ought, in its practical effect on my heart and life. O may I ever see the deceitfulness and treachery of my own heart in the backsliders, whose deeds and punishments have been recorded for the admonition of all future ages. O may I ever be afraid of being numbered with those, who, though they ardently profess the love of Christ with the life, yet deny Him and betray Him and crucify Him afresh in wicked deeds. And do Thou, without whom I can do nothing, mercifully repress my natural presumption, and warn me of danger, by impressing that Scripture upon my mind: 'Let him who thinketh that he standeth take heed lest he fall.'

Almighty God, I entreat Thee to send the knowledge of Christ among the heathen. And do Thou grant that, over all the churches of Christendom, the power of the gospel may be more remarkably felt and manifested. Be very gracious to my own church and country and nation; to my own relatives, friends, companions, acquaintances, and neighbours. Visit all ranks and denominations of men, Sovereign and subject, nobleman and commoner, parent and child, master and servant, young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak, learned and ignorant, with such heavenly aid as their stations and necessities and duties require.

Let Thy Spirit accompany me through the duties of this day, and uphold my strength, and direct my steps, and lead me in the way which leadeth to Thyself, for the sake

of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

28. SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, Thou wast, Thou art, and Thou wilt ever be. Before time was marked out by the luminaries of heaven, or days and months and years began, Thou wast, O Jehovah, as Thou now art, Infinite and Unchangeable in all Thy perfections. I bless Thy holy name, that frail and mortal and sinful though I am, I still enjoy Thy protection in the land of the living, and have partaken of Thy mercies from day to day, and am now allowed to see the close of another week. I know and I feel that time will, ere long, revolve for me no more, and that the mandate has already gone forth against me as against the whole race of Adam: 'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.' I beseech Thee to keep me in mind of mortality; and do Thou make me to remember that, as the days of my life continually give place to night, so another night—the night of death, and the bed of the grave, await me at no great distance of time.

Almighty God, prepare me for death and for eternity. Forgive, for the sake of Thy beloved Son, the transgressions of which I have been guilty, in thought, in word, and deed, throughout the past week, and all the former part of my life. And, as Jesus has been exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour for the giving of repentance as well as of forgiveness of sins to His people, I pray that He may establish His authority in my heart, and enable me

to repent thoroughly of my sins, and to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. As Jesus, before He went away from His earthly ministrations to His heavenly glory, promised to send another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, I pray that, through the influence of this Spirit, I may more and more see and understand the doctrines of the gospel, and be permitted to rejoice in the peace which Jesus giveth to the souls of His people—the peace which is made through His blood between rebellious creatures and their faithful Creator.

I acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of the living God. O grant me so to believe in this Thine only-begotten Son, that I may not perish, but may have everlasting life through Him. Do Thou impress this great truth indelibly upon my mind, that there is no true faith where there is no good life, and that vain and delusive is the religion of the man who bridleth not his tongue, and is a hearer but not a doer of the word. O make me to be mindful of the practice as well as the profession of the gospel; to be circumspect in my speech; to be watchful over the flow of thought within me; to keep truth and sincerity and candour ever in my view; and to see that the outward expression, whether of word or of deed, correspond with the inmost thought. O grant that I may beware of taking Thy great and venerable name into my mouth in a light and irreverent manner; of profaning Thy Sabbaths, and of turning my back upon the ordinances of Thy house. And, O gracious God, do Thou enable me at all times so to direct my steps, and to order my life and conversation, as to promote the glory of

Thy name, the credit of the Christian profession, and the comfort of my own soul.

And, O gracious God, do Thou send the Scriptures with a divine power into every land, for the dispersion of heathen darkness, and the overthrow of the manifold idolatries of the world. Especially look down with a favourable eye upon my own country—its husbandry and merchandise, its civil, religious, and educational institutions. O bless the Sovereign, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family; the nobility, magistracy, and whole body of the people.

Especially I remember before Thee all those with whom I am more particularly concerned. O may my relatives and friends be the friends of Jesus, even of Him who is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. O may my companions and acquaintances, looking beyond earthly intercourse, acquaint themselves with Thee betimes, and be at peace in their own minds, under a sense of Thy favour, and hold converse with Thee as a present though invisible God. And while we rejoice in the society of one another, may we join oftener in the ordinances of the gospel, and seek more fervently to have fellowship with Thee, O Father, and with Thy Son Jesus Christ.

And now I beseech Thee to ward off all the perils and perturbations of night, and to give me quiet and refreshing sleep. Be pleased to raise me up again into life in the morning; and especially do Thou awaken every good principle and affection within me into a livelier exercise in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

THIRD WEEK.

29. SUNDAY MORNING.

BLESS the Lord thy God, O my soul; and all that is within me—every power and every faculty of the inner man—bless ye His holy name.

I adore the good providence, O Almighty God, which has again watched over my life during the silence of night, and opened my eyes upon the light of another day—a day which Thou art pleased to hallow as peculiarly Thine own. O Thou who didst say on the first day of the creation, 'Let there be light, and there was light,' do Thou this day command the light of heavenly truth to shine upon my soul, to disperse my spiritual darkness, and to animate me afresh for the discharge of duty. With gladness do I remember before Thee, on this the weekly memorial of Christ's resurrection, that the sleep of death will at last come to an end, and that, as the grave has already sent forth the first-fruits of her dead, so, upon them who now rise from sin and seek after heavenly things, will dawn the morning of an eternal day, and of a sinless and happy life.

I thank Thee, O my God, that on this same day of the week Thou speedily gavest the assurance of the fulfilment of those glorious events, in sending down the promised

aids of the Spirit, and enduing the first disciples with powers from on high. I praise Thee that, under the operation of the heavenly energies which Thou pouredst out upon their souls, they went forth to preach Jesus of Nazareth—His death and resurrection and ascension, and to perform miracles and wonders and signs, in confirmation of the truth which they taught. I rejoice that their message, proceeding from Jerusalem, hath reached this distant isle of the Gentiles, and that I have thence learned to know Thee, O Jehovah, and Thy Son Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast exalted on high to be the Judge both of the living and of the dead.

O Thou who didst thus baptize them with the Holy Ghost, send forth Thy gracious influences still for the conversion of men. Vouchsafe unto myself, O merciful God, an interest in the doctrines which they deliver; and grant that this holy day, with its several ordinances and solemnities, may shed a new principle of life over my whole soul, may illuminate my mind, and spiritualize my affections. Do Thou, the Giver of life, the Creator of mankind and of the world, who workest equally in the souls of men and in the vast regions of matter, create my fallen nature anew unto good works; forgive my past sins; and enable me through Thy grace to be more diligent and successful in fulfilling Thy will henceforward, in thought, in word, and in deed.

O grant me, Thou Source of all light and wisdom, more and more to know both Thee and myself—the glory and majesty and holiness of Thy nature; the fallen condition, the corruption, the weakness, and the guilt of mine. O

let Thy Spirit renew me, both in intellect and in will, into the likeness of Thyself, and raise me again to the glory and to the rank from which man is fallen. Do Thou give such health and strength and temporal accommodations, as may enable me to work Thy pleasure, and to run the race which Thou hast set before me. O let not the objects of the external world engross my thoughts; nor the beauty which is spread over the whole face of nature keep me from seeing Thee in Thy work, and delighting in the greater glory of the Workman. Be graciously pleased to foster and to strengthen within me my feeble perceptions of the beauty of holiness, and to exalt my views of moral obligation and of Christian duty. Open Thou my eyes, and quicken my ears, that I may see Thy path, and hear Thy voice, both in Thy works and in Thy holy word. Enable me to store up the precious truths of religion in my soul. And do Thou so hallow my imagination, that purity, and holiness, and benevolence may constantly characterize the flow of thought within me. Subdue my appetites to the authority of reason. Teach me to hunger and to thirst after righteousness; and rear me up under Thy heavenly nurture to the stature of the perfect Christian. Make all my desires, whether of power, or of wealth, or of life itself, or of any other temporal gift, to be subservient to the interests of my soul, and conducive to the attainment of spiritual gifts. O give me to feel within myself, that in the bestowing of my affections, I still delight in them who delight in Thee, and that, while hating sin as the enemy of man, I exercise benevolence towards all. And do Thou grant, O Jehovah, that the

love pervading my whole heart and soul and mind, and calling all the strength and energies of my better part into action, may prove my highest passion, my supreme, my only principle of conduct in the discharge of the various duties which belong to my station and circumstances.

Father of mankind, give the knowledge of a Sabbath, and of Him who is Lord of the Sabbath, to the whole Gentile world. Bless the Church throughout all her congregations and members; and be Thou pleased to reform her, wherever she errs in doctrine, or worship, or discipline. Especially let the congregation wherewith I am connected flourish before Thee in holiness, and furnish many saints for heaven. Make righteousness and religion to be the glory of my native land. My friends and relatives, and companions and neighbours, do Thou accept as members of the great family of Christ. Visit the poor, the sorrowful, the sick, and the dying with Thy comforts. Convert sinners to Thyself; stablish the doubting heart in the doctrines of the gospel; and grant unto the rich so to use the deceitful riches of this world as to secure for themselves a better portion in heaven.

Be present, O God, with Thy worshippers this day throughout the world, and give them comfort in the services of Thy house. Prepare Thy ministers for their work. Accept the prayers of Thy people. Seal Thy precepts and instructions upon the hearts of the hearers; and strengthen them for bearing the toils of the ensuing week in their several vocations.

Be pleased, I beseech Thee, to direct myself through the duties of this day, and to grant me comfort in my

own devotions. And do Thou enable me, both this day and every day of the week, to set Thee always before me, and to serve Thee with the homage of a holy life, for the sake of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

30. SUNDAY EVENING.

I WILL extol Thee, O God. I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Do Thou, my King and my God, listen unto my voice, and let my prayer come up with acceptance before Thee.

Great art Thou, O Jehovah, and worthy of all adoration. In the beginning Thou madest this mighty world. Thou spakest, and the work was done; thou commandedst, and all things stood fast. And to this day, agreeably to this ordinance, they continue—the sun to rule the day, the moon and the stars to rule the night. All are Thy servants. The host of heaven worshippeth Thee. The angels, mighty in strength, fulfil Thy commandments, and hearken to the voice of Thy words.

O Thou who hast appointed the grateful vicissitude of light and darkness, and the various times and vicissitudes of the revolving year, I humbly thank Thee that I have again been allowed to enjoy the rest of the Christian Sabbath, and to seek Thee in Thine ordinances without the distraction of secular pursuits. I praise Thee that, in the exercise of mercy toward Thy weary creatures, Thou hast set apart one day of the week for the refresh-

ing both of soul and of body, and taught me to aspire after the eternal Sabbath of Heaven in sanctifying Thy weekly Sabbath upon earth. I rejoice in the blessings which Thou hast annexed to the keeping of Thy holy day. And I devoutly pray that I may be enabled so to hallow the Sabbath as to obtain in Thy house an everlasting name—the name of the Son of God. O that Thy Sabbaths were indeed a sign between Thee and me; that I acknowledge Thee, O Jehovah, to be the Lord and Proprietor of my time, and that I am anxious to take hold of Thy covenant, and to appropriate its blessings to myself in an everlasting possession.

Do Thou, O God, who alone canst enrich the outward means with an invisible grace, make all the religious services in which I have this day been engaged, to promote my spiritual welfare, and train me for the services of Heaven. O let my prayers, as far as they are in accordance with Thy will, be favourably answered, both as to my soul and my body. O let the precepts and the instructions, which this day has again brought before me, accomplish Thy purposes in enlightening my eyes, in directing my feet, and in saving my soul. And grant, O blessed God, that the thoughts with which I have sanctified the Sabbath, may diffuse their hallowing influence over all the other days of the week.

In resting on this day from my ordinary employments, I have testified that I believe in the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Ghost, in the creation of the world, in the resurrection of Christ, in the outpouring of heavenly influences, and in the coming of a more glorious Sabbath,

when the present succession of weeks and years shall disappear in an eternal day. Do Thou, O Almighty and Eternal God, enable me to see in my growing holiness that I am indeed interested in these glorious truths. Do Thou grant that my faith may be unto me as the substance of the things for which I now hope, and as the evidence of the things which are not yet revealed to mortal eye. Do Thou make me to walk by faith and not by sight, to look upon myself as absent from Christ while at home in the body, and to seek a better, a heavenly country, under the guidance and direction of His Spirit. Increase continually my love of this temporal Sabbath as long as I sojourn here, and quicken my desires after the services of the everlasting Sabbath of heaven. Give me so to delight in the ordinances of Thine earthly tabernacles, as to show that my soul is ripening for the ordinances and society of that holier temple which Thou hast Thyself reared in Heaven.

Reveal Thyself, O Jehovah, among the heathen. Give them Thy Sabbaths for the refreshment both of soul and of body. And let Thy house be a house of prayer through Jesus Christ, for all the kindreds of men. Enlarge the kingdom of the Messiah in our own land, and bring the whole of our people under the influence of His law. Bless all orders and conditions of men; the Sovereign, the nobles, and the commonalty, the statesmen, the judges, the magistrates, and ministers, and all my neighbours, relatives, companions, and friends. Enable them all to call the Sabbath a delight, and to keep from polluting it with worldly business. And especially do Thou

grant, O gracious God, that its pleasures and consolations may be enjoyed by them to whom days of sorrow and toil are appointed throughout the week. Remember the poor and the needy, and them who have no helpers upon earth. Deliver them when they cry unto Thee; redeem their souls from deceit and violence; satisfy their wants and necessities; above all, give them the true riches and the bread of life; and whatsoever plague, spiritual or temporal, may afflict them, O teach them to have recourse unto Thee in prayers and supplication, instead of trusting to an arm of flesh.

And now, O Almighty God, at whose command the light and the darkness come and go, do Thou defend me during the silent watches of this night, and bring me forth in health and strength for entering upon the temporal duties of the week. And forbid, O gracious God, that either business or pleasure should so engross my mind as to make me forgetful of those spiritual services which are the duties of every day. As I have outwardly hallowed another Sabbath unto Thee, so do Thou inwardly more and more hallow my whole soul. And as I have again withdrawn a day from the common uses of life, in honour of Christ and of Thee, so do Thou grant that its sanctifying effects may be felt by myself, and observed by the world through all the week. Allow me not to go forth from the temple of the living God to the service of idols, and to bring disgrace upon the Church of Christ, by professing to have faith, while I am careless of good works. Keep me, whithersoever I go, and whatsoever I do, still stedfast in my allegiance,

and anxious to perform Thy will in the discharge of the several duties which Thou layest upon me. Enable me to show in my life that the doctrine of Christ indeed dwells in my heart; and grant that through Thy grace I may be so established in the gospel, as not to be carried about by every wind of doctrine.

O that the close of every day might remind me of the close of life; and that, in lying down for my nightly rest here, I might ever bethink myself of my lowly bed in the chambers of death. If I shall awake in the night, let the employments of the past day still hallow my imagination. And do Thou gladden my heart with the hope of awaking hereafter from the slumbers of the tomb to another and a better life, through the intercession of my risen Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

31. MONDAY MORNING.

O ETERNAL God, Creator of the world, and Giver of life, I, a frail and mortal creature who am sprung from dust, and to dust will ere long return, desire with all lowliness of mind to approach Thine adorable presence. I thank Thee that, through Thy providential care, my life has hitherto been prolonged upon earth, that I have again slept in safety, as beneath the shade of Thy pavilion, during the bygone night, and am allowed to direct my thoughts to the temporal duties of another week. O that the remembrance of

the holy exercises in which I was yesterday engaged, would still sanctify my whole conduct, and preserve me, both this day and all the days of the week, from yielding to the temptations either of the world or of the flesh. O that Thy good Spirit would lead me aright in the time of difficulty—would keep me out of the wiles of Satan, and preserve me both from the malice of outward foes and from the treachery of my own wicked heart.

O Thou who, in sanctifying the Sabbath for Thine own service, gavest six days for the work and business of man, I beseech Thee to bless me in my professional pursuits, and to give me success and satisfaction in the discharge of the various duties to which I am necessarily called. Make me always to remember that I am not mine own; that all my powers and faculties were given of Thee for the working of Thy holy will; and that every deed that I now do in the body will be brought hereafter into judgment. O let a sense of Thy inspection and superintendence incite me to do the things which Thou hast commanded, and keep me back from whatsoever Thou hast forbidden. Save me from the immoderate desire of any earthly thing. Give me health and competency and peace of mind. Make me to be contented and thankful in the condition in which Thou hast placed me, and under every circumstance that may befall me, whether it be prosperous or adverse. Enable me so to do unto others, as I would wish that others should do unto me. Make me to be faithful and just in my dealings, watchful over the words of my mouth,

and careful so to behave myself as neither to mislead a fellow-creature nor to dishonour Christ.

Often, O my God, have I sinned already. Often, O my gracious Master, have I failed in duty, contemned Thy commands, and preferred the service of sin unto Thine. O that the years which are now gone might suffice for the following of my own evil inclinations, and that Thou wouldst yet give me other days for the keeping of Thy righteous precepts, and the devoting of myself more faithfully unto Thee. Do Thou, who delightest in mercy, and seekest not the death but the repentance of sinners, forgive me for the time past, and assist me, through the influence of Thy gracious Spirit, to be more obedient for the future. Where I am blind, do Thou enlighten me. Where I am weak, do Thou strengthen me. Where I am irresolute, do Thou confirm me. Where I am stubborn and refractory, O do Thou correct me in mercy, and reduce me to the humility which becomes the disciple of Jesus.

Do Thou again, O God, as a Guide and Guardian, accompany me into the affairs of human life. And as of old Thou didst on this day of the week raise up the firmament of heaven, so do Thou enable me to rise to heaven hereafter, through the honourable discharge of the duties of this and of every day, and the keeping of my best affections for better scenes than those of the earth. While I mingle with the world, O let heaven be always in my eye, and my risen Lord the person in whose presence I desire most earnestly to appear. When life passes away from me here, and neither earthly friends

nor earthly joys are of any avail, O do Thou, with whom is the source of life, grant me to enter upon eternal life among the angels of heaven, for the sake of my ever-living Redeemer, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

32. MONDAY EVENING.

O GREAT and glorious Jehovah, Creator and Preserver of men, what shall I render unto Thee for the care which Thou hast again taken of me this day? Lord, what am I, that Thou still art mindful of me? What am I, a fallen and a guilty creature, that Thou thus condescendest to visit me with new tokens of Thy love? Alas! I deserve not to be thus preserved and fed, and clothed and gladdened of Thee, to whom I have so often proved an undutiful son and disobedient servant. O that the mercy which has again been renewed to me, in the comforts of this day, might wean my affections from unworthy objects, and fix them unalterably upon Thee!

I thank Thee, O beneficent God, that though accident and disease, under a thousand forms, are busy in laying waste the world of life, I am still alive before Thee to present my evening oblation of praise. This day hast Thou again been to me a Sun and a Shield, to enlighten my path and to protect my head. With favour hast Thou again compassed me as with a shield; and Thy hands have kept me from stumbling and sinking down among the dead.

O Thou who redeemest my life from destruction, be graciously pleased to forgive my iniquities also. O Thou who wardest off calamity from my body, save also, I beseech Thee, my soul from sin. Let the goodness which followed me through the whole of this day be still with me during the watches of the night. Allow me still, O God, to find protection with Thee in the helplessness of sleep; and under the shadow of Thy wings, let me still be safe from the enemy, from the pestilence which walketh in darkness, from Satan, the destroyer of souls, and from wicked men, his emissaries and agents in the world. I wish to reside with Thee, and to look for my sweetest joy in Thy communion. My life and my abode, my health, my property, and my comfort—the whole do I commend unto Thee; the whole do I put, O Jehovah, under the safeguard of Thy mighty name. Be Thou pleased to fulfil my desire. Give the charge of me unto Thine holy angels; and while they encamp around me, may I find rest and refreshment for my wearied powers.

All that I have, all that I hope for, is from Thee, O bounteous God, who givest liberally unto all men and upbraidest not. Lord, make me more desirous of heavenly wisdom and of religious joy than of earthly attainments—the possessions, the honours, the wealth, or the science of the world. O keep me from so coveting this world's goods as to act unjustly towards others, to borrow and not to repay, to use the services of the poor without reward, or to follow any other principles than those of truth and generosity and honest industry. Restrain my wishes within such bounds as accord with my talents and station, and

the uncertainty of life. And O make me ever to beware of the temptations and snares, the many foolish and hurtful lusts, the destruction and perdition into which they fall who are determined to be rich. O grant me to remember that the love of money is the root of all evil, and that in coveting after riches, men have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. O give me rather to be content with food and raiment, and to follow after righteousness and godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness, and eternal life; and to find, unto my comfortable experience, that even in this world, godliness with contentment is the greatest of all gain.

Extend Thy special protection, O God, towards all with whom I am connected in the several relations of life; and be pleased so to direct their steps, that this their temporal life may issue in life eternal. Send down heavenly comforts into the habitations of human woe, and remove or alleviate, as it shall seem good unto Thee, the diseases which prey upon the souls and bodies of men. Let this land in which Thou hast cast my lot, be blessed of Thee in all her interests—her husbandry, her manufactures, and her commerce. And do Thou grant the inhabitants to live in peace, and to share in one common and general prosperity. Let the light of the gospel rise upon those lands which yet lie in darkness; and may the time soon arrive, when all the nations shall be bound together by a common faith in the kingdom of the Messiah.

Lord, if it be Thy holy will, let the light of another morning dawn upon myself; and may Thy good Spirit lead me safely through the duties of another day, for the

sake of my Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

33. TUESDAY MORNING.[1]

O ALMIGHTY God, whose goodness extendeth to the whole of the creation, I, Thy needy creature, under a deep sense of Thy kind and watchful providence, humbly desire to render my grateful acknowledgments unto Thee for all Thy mercy. I bless Thy holy name for the continuance of those mighty aids by which I have been defended against the accidents of this mortal life, and delivered from the innumerable dangers of the world, and preserved again through the silence of another night. To Thee do I wholly owe that the terrors of the night have passed by without harming me, that my body has enjoyed its needful rest, and that I am brought in safety to the beginning of this day. For these and for all Thy other mercies does my soul bless and magnify Thy glorious name. And I fervently beseech Thee to accept this my morning sacrifice of adoration and praise, for the sake of Him who lay down on the bed of death, and rose again into life in earnest of His people's resurrection.

O gracious Father, I desire to hallow the day to which Thou hast now brought me, with thoughts of Thee and of all that is good, and to dedicate myself, soul and body, to Thy service, in a sober, a righteous, and godly life. I

[1] This prayer and the one following are taken from Forms which an eminent English Divine prepared for his parishioners.

renounce the devil and his works, the vanities of the world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh. I earnestly wish to serve Thee all the days of my life; and I sincerely resolve so to improve the time which Thou shalt be pleased to grant unto me here, that I may daily become a better Christian, more stedfast in the faith and holiness which the gospel requires. Do Thou, merciful God, confirm and strengthen me in my good resolutions, and enable me so to keep them, both this day and every day of my life, that as I grow in age, I may grow in grace and in the knowledge of my Saviour.

O God, Thou knowest the weakness and corruption of my nature, and the manifold temptations with which I daily meet. O have compassion upon me, and so give me the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, that I may be restrained from sin, and excited to the discharge of duty. Suffer me not to be tempted above what I am able to bear; and when Thou seest me yielding to temptation, stretch out Thy hand for my deliverance. Imprint upon my heart such a dread of Thy judgments, and such a gratitude for Thy gifts, as may make me both afraid and ashamed to transgress Thy law. And especially do Thou keep up in my mind a lively remembrance of that awful day in which I must give an account of my conduct for the approval or condemnation of Jesus Christ, the Judge both of the quick and of the dead.

O God, enable me so to keep this day, that I may be able to give an account of it with joy. Grant me so to have Thee and Thy laws before mine eyes, that I may walk, according to Thy will, with watchfulness and circum-

spection. Keep me sober and temperate in my meat and drink. Make me diligent in the profession and duties to which in Thy providence I am called. O grant me to be patient under affliction, and contented with the state in which Thou seest meet to place me. Enable me to be just and upright in my dealings, quiet and peaceable among my neighbours, compassionate towards the needy and the afflicted, and helpful unto all according to my opportunities and ability. And grant, O blessed God, whose are the joys of heaven, that, walking humbly before Thee all my days, and looking continually for the glorious appearance of my Lord, I may at length be translated from a life of faith to a life of glory—the happier life, which passes not away.

Let Thine aids go along with me this day, to prosper my honest designs and lawful business, in the station wherein Thy providence has placed me. Direct me in all my ways. Bring the labours of my hands to a joyful issue. Lord, I desire to walk under a constant sense of Thy gracious providence. O let this gracious providence watch over me, and preserve me when I go out and when I come in. Do Thou defend me from all dangers, calamities, and losses. And be mercifully pleased to take both myself and all that pertains to me under Thy fatherly care and protection. These things, O Almighty God, and whatever else Thou seest necessary and convenient for my soul, my body, or my worldly state, I earnestly beg of Thee, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

34. TUESDAY EVENING.

O MOST merciful God, who, though Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, yet promisest forgiveness to all such as confess and forsake it, I come before Thee in a humble sense of my unworthiness, and acknowledge my manifold transgressions in thought, in word, and in deed. Daily have I done what Thou hast forbidden; daily have I left undone what Thou hast commanded. When I look back upon my past life, and remember that Thou art conscious of my most secret sins, I am not only afraid of Thy judgments, but I am ashamed to lift up mine eyes before Thee. O gracious Father, who desirest not the death of the sinner, I beseech Thee to look upon me in the person of Jesus Christ, and on account of His merits to be merciful to my sins. O make me deeply sensible of their enormity, and excite a hearty contrition within me. Let the remembrance of iniquity be more grievous to my soul than the remembrance of other evils. And grant, O Thou, who, for the sake of Christ, art ever ready to receive penitents, that I may so lament and hate my transgressions, as to obtain forgiveness at Thy hands.

O Almighty God, my own frailty, and the temptations which encompass me, are ever ready to draw me into sin. Do Thou so vouchsafe unto me the direction and assistance of Thy Spirit, that I may be able to bring my desires and resolutions of amendment to good effect, in a pious, a righteous, and a sober life. Reform whatever Thou findest amiss in the temper and dispositions of my soul. Let no

unclean thought, no unlawful designs, no inordinate desires, lurk within me. Purge my heart from all envy, hatred, and malice. Keep me from suffering the sun to go down upon my wrath. Enable me, when I seek my nightly repose, to lie down in peace, with feelings of charity and good-will toward all. Make my heart to be a fit habitation for Thy Holy Spirit. And grant, that whether I sleep or wake, I may enjoy the protection of Heaven, and be preserved pure and blameless in my whole spirit and soul and body unto the coming of my Lord.

Hear, O Thou universal Parent, and accept, in testimony of brotherly love, my hearty intercessions in behalf of all mankind. Make the light of the gospel to shine upon every land, and enable the nations, which have already learned the name of Christ, to live as it becometh His people. Especially be gracious unto the church and nation whereunto I belong. Bless the Sovereign, and all that under her have authority throughout the land; and do Thou so rule their hearts, and strengthen their hands, that they may be willing and able to punish wickedness, and to maintain true religion among us. Send down Thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, upon all my relatives, friends, and neighbours. Reward all that have done me good, pardon all that have done or wished me evil, and give them repentance and better minds. Be merciful unto all that are in any trouble, or affliction of mind, of body, or of worldly estate. And, O compassionate God, for the sake of Him who went about doing good to the souls and bodies of men, do Thou administer to every one, help and comfort according to his necessities.

Again, O bountiful God, do I express my sincere acknowledgments for all the mercies with which, from time to time, Thou hast visited me; for my life, my reason, and the other faculties and endowments of soul and body; for health, and strength; for relatives and friends and benefactors; for food and raiment, and the comforts and conveniences of my lot; especially for the gift of Thy Son, for the knowledge of His gospel, and the hope of heaven; for the patience which Thou hast had with me amidst my many provocations; for the directions, the assistances, and comforts of Thy Holy Spirit in seasons of difficulty and sorrow; and for the watchful providence which Thou hast exercised over me throughout the whole course of my life. Again I thank Thee, that to the gifts of former years Thou hast added the mercies and comforts of this day. Continue, I beseech Thee, these Thy blessings to me still. And grant me to satisfy my sense of the obligation, in striving, through Thy grace, to keep Thy commandments.

Into Thy hand do I commit myself, soul and body, my substance, my dwelling, and all things that are mine. And to Thy care do I commit the whole. Be pleased, O Thou who neither slumberest nor sleepest, to grant the protection of Thy mighty arm. Defend me from all danger and fear, and give me such quiet and refreshing sleep as may fit me for the duties of the following day. Keep me mindful of my mortality and of the chambers of death. Make me so to live that I may not be afraid to die. And whether I live or die, grant that I may be Thine—living, if I live, to Thy glory, and dying, if I die, in the faith of Him who can raise me again, and in whose

name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

35. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O HEAVENLY Father, all are Thine offspring. In Thee do I live and move and have my being. Under Thy protection I have again lain down and risen up. And rejoicing in the appearance of another day, I desire with all reverence to offer up my acknowledgment of gratitude and praise. As Thou, O merciful God, hast preserved me, soul and body, through the night, so do Thou enable me, both in soul and body, to serve Thee through the day, and to glorify Thy great name in all that I do.

O Almighty God, I confess my past transgressions, my sensual affections and worldly thoughts, my love of ease and luxury and self-gratification, and my neglect of Thee, and of my brethren, and of my own soul. For the sake of Him who became poor that His people might be made rich, O forgive my undutiful behaviour, and blot out my sins from Thy remembrance. O cleanse me from all filthiness, both of the flesh and of the spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. O let me be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, by Thy Holy Spirit. As Thou hast raised me above the brutes by the powers of reason and of conscience, so do Thou deliver me from the dominion of brutish affections. O save me from myself, from my corrupt nature, and the insupportable tyranny of sin. Enable

me to keep my body under, and to bring it into subjection through the exercise of prayer and abstinence. Make me ever to remember the insatiable nature of sensual lust, and to beware of its miserable effects. Keep me afar from the contagion of sin,—from wicked men, from wicked sights, and wicked books,—and allow not the evil which reigns in the world to inflame the native corruption of my own soul. Restrain me from converting Thy bounty into a means of sin. Grant that, instead of making provision to fulfil the lusts of the flesh, I may so use the world as to promote health both of body and of mind, and activity in the discharge of all duties and obligations. Enable me to eat and drink in such manner as becometh them who wish to live unto Thee, and who account it their meat and their joy to do Thy holy will. Especially do Thou make me to hunger after grace, to thirst after righteousness, and to grow stronger daily in the inner man. And do Thou grant that my soul, loathing more and more the sensual and sinful indulgences of earth, may escape from her present troubles on the wings of devotion, and find rest with Thee.

As long as I am in the body, be pleased, O Thou Preserver of men, to strengthen and to direct me from on high. Do Thou afford me such comfort and support as accord with my state, my cares, duties, and engagements. And let the triumphs of Thy grace appear in conquering me wholly, soul and body, for Thyself. Let all envy, malice, covetousness, all bigotry, pride, and deceit, die within me. And henceforward do Thou make me to live only unto Thee and unto righteousness, unto love and charity, candour and meekness and self-denial.

O go with me, Almighty God, into the business and scenes of this day, and remind me continually of its various duties. Whithersoever Thou callest me, make me willing to bear my cross, and to follow Christ. By whatever ties I am bound unto men, O may I remember that I am Christ's disciple, that He claims to be preferred before all other kindred, and that in His service it is incumbent on me to forego even life itself. Grant that, like a good soldier, I may never so far entangle myself with the affairs of this life as to be unable to fight the good fight of faith. Let the food which Thou suppliest be not merely the meat which perisheth, but the meat which also endureth unto eternal life. O give me grace now, and glory hereafter; and let the toils, the temptations, and the struggles of this mortal state conduct me to the joys of heaven, under the superintending care of my Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

36. WEDNESDAY EVENING.

UNTO Thee, O God, my Father and my Lord, do I again approach, deeply sensible of my wants, my ingratitude, and my guilt. Of Thy goodness it is that I have this day been supplied with food, defended from danger, and upheld in life. Thy mercies have never failed. Every day brings them fresh from heaven; and every night that I go to sleep, sees me lie down under the care of Thy watchful eye. Thine I am, Thee I would

wish to serve. And unto Thee do I acknowledge that my gratitude and my praise are continually due.

But, alas! I am a fallen creature, an undutiful child, a disobedient servant. I live on Thy bounty; and too often I forget the Giver. I enjoy the protection of an Almighty arm, and I act as if my safety proceeded from myself. I give my thoughts to the world, to its cares, its vanities, and sins, as if I had neither wish nor hope of heaven, neither dread nor remembrance of hell. O for Christ's sake forgive me the transgressions into which I have again fallen this day. In the name of Jesus I return to Thee from my wanderings. Do Thou, on His account, receive me into favour, and lead me henceforward in the paths of righteousness. Let Him who knew no sin be my righteousness and my strength. Let Him who stooped to die as if He had been a sinner, reconcile me unto Thee, and save me from wrath.

I acknowledge, O God, that my nature is corrupt and depraved, and that I am unable, of my own strength, to break the chains with which I am bound by sin. Thou standest not in need of me; but without Thee I am undone. Do Thou put forth Thine almighty arm and restore me to freedom. Mortify my evil affections. Subdue Satan within me by the mighty power of grace; and dissolve the charm with which the world allures the heedless soul to itself. O cast every unclean spirit out of me, and let Thy Holy Spirit come unto me and dwell in their stead. Enable me to be so temperate and abstinent in the use of earthly comforts, that the flesh may be subdued to the spirit, and the godly emotions which Thou

excitest within me, may produce their proper effect in the holiness of my outward demeanour. Keep me both inwardly in my soul and outwardly in my body. Allow neither evil thoughts to lurk within me, nor accident or disease to come upon me from without.

O Thou who art the Enlightener of the soul and the Giver of grace, show me my duties and obligations in the various circumstances of life. Clear up and confirm the right suggestions of my reason by the instructions of Thy written word. Direct all my desires, affections, and passions in the pursuit of what is good and holy and just. Make me to feel unspeakable joy in cultivating my spiritual nature. Root out of me all wrath and hatred and discontent, and teach me to be offended with sin only, the object of hatred unto Thee, and the cause of ruin to the souls of men. Purify my principles more and more. Make my conduct to flow from proper motives. Animate and control and regulate all my powers by the operation of Thy invisible grace. And do Thou grant that the awful events which futurity has still in store—death and judgment and eternity—may draw off my soul from the vanities and contentions of the world to faith and love, to holiness, sobriety, and watchfulness.

O Thou, who art King of all the earth, graciously receive my supplications in behalf of this land, her Queen, her nobles, and commons, and her various institutions, ecclesiastical and civil. And do Thou, whose Spirit governs and sanctifies the whole body of the Church, bless our own Zion in all her members, and enable every one to serve Thee acceptably in his own vocation and employ-

ment. Be pleased to acknowledge my friends as Thine also. And if I have any enemies, Father, forgive them; remove all grounds and causes of offence, and enable me to forgive others as I wish to be forgiven of Thee. Manifest the power of the gospel among us in subduing the sinner unto Christ, in healing the broken and contrite spirit, and in nourishing up the saint for everlasting life. And be pleased, O Thou who art the Father of all men, to bless the means which are employed for extending the pale of Christendom, and putting down the innumerable superstitions of the earth.

Do Thou this night, O Lord of Hosts, defend me, both soul and body, from the assaults of evil. Let neither man nor Satan, neither sin nor disease, invade my repose. Allow me, O my God, to rejoice before Thee in the return of another morn. And mercifully grant, that when the darkness shall again retire, no cloud may obscure the faculties of my reason, and no languor unfit my feeble frame for the duties of the day. Accept, O gracious God, this my evening oblation, for the sake of my Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

37. THURSDAY MORNING.

O MY God, Author of my life at first, and again the Renewer of my wearied powers in the hours of sleep, I humbly desire to lift my soul unto Thee, and to give my earliest thoughts to gratitude and praise. I thank Thee

that Thou hast again commanded the darkness to retire, and allowed me to open my eyes upon the light of another dawn. O grant also that the darkness which broods over my soul may be dispersed; that the night and dominion of sin may come to an end within me; that the Sun of Righteousness may pour His rays upon my torpid powers; and all be light and joy and activity in the inner man. Do Thou, whose wakeful eye is always over me, make me to remember that now it is time to awake out of the sleep of sin; and renouncing the works of darkness, to walk no more in riot or wantonness or strife, but honestly and soberly as becometh the day.

O Thou, who art the Father of lights, open the eyes of my understanding, so that I may savingly understand the Scriptures. Do Thou give me such a knowledge of the direful consequences of sin as will make me adhere unto Christ, and rejoice that, after He had risen from the dead, He commanded repentance and the remission of sin to be preached among all nations. Especially do Thou enable me, on this day of the week—the day of His ascension and return to heaven—to remember with thankfulness that He is gone to make intercession for the transgressors, whose sins He bore upon the cross. O grant that I may rise in spirit and affection unto my Saviour on high. Let this day and every day see me mourning over the bondage of sin, and longing to partake of the holiness and glory of my risen Lord. Enable me to set my affections on the things which are above. Enrol my name among the saints; and let my citizenship, even while I am on earth, be of that heavenly city, the New Jerusalem,

whence I look for my Saviour. Whatever gifts Thou art pleased to bestow on me here, O give me also an inheritance in heaven. While I strive in Thy strength to procure a portion of earthly comforts, O grant me to be more laborious in laying up treasures for myself in that better country where there is no thief to steal, no moth or rust to corrupt. And while I taste the sweets of human friendship, and rejoice in the ties by which I am bound to my fellow-men, do Thou acknowledge me as a friend and brother of Jesus, and a member of the heavenly household. Thither, where Christ sitteth at Thy right hand, let my thoughts be continually directed. Do Thou inflame my soul with a more ardent desire of immortal life; and when at length the hour of my departing hence shall arrive, O grant me the assurance of meeting in joy with that blessed Lord, for whose coming I now in faith profess to wait.

Alas! O God, my past experience has taught that of myself I am unable to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and piously in this present world. O look down upon me in mercy, and compassionate my infirmities and corruptions. Absolve me from my past offences, and deliver me from the bands of sin. In all my dangers and necessities, stretch forth Thy hand to help and to defend me. Diminish continually the power of temptations; keep me out of all scenes of contention and wickedness; and grant that the natural frailty, through which I am now betrayed into the hands of Satan, may give place to spiritual strength, and my whole soul be renewed into the likeness of Christ's.

O Thou, who hast so long made my mornings and my

evenings to approach with joy, make Thou this day also to pass over me without harm. O provide my necessary food out of Thy plenteous stores; prosper me in my temporal pursuits; preserve me from all dishonourable conduct; and grant, O gracious God, that when the business of the day closes, I may again, unconscious of the distractions of the world and the stings of an evil conscience, be allowed to commend myself unto Thee, and to partake of the repose of night, through the intercession of my Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

38. THURSDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, Thou upholdest me still. Under Thy protection I have lived another day, and partaken anew of Thy most precious gifts. O that the cessation of manual labour and of worldly pursuits might now appear in the activity of the inner man and the lively gratitude of the soul, and that the power of religion might hallow my whole frame, before the slumbers of the night shall come upon me. It was no power nor wisdom of mine that, either to-day or at any former time, defended my life, or directed my steps, or encouraged me in the discharge of duty. But Thou, O Jehovah, even Thou wast my Guardian and my Guide.

I humbly thank Thee for all the goodness that I have again this day experienced at Thy hands,—for life itself, for the temporal comforts of my lot, and especially for my

spiritual mercies; for the continuance of reason, and the lengthening of the season of grace. O be gracious still, I most devoutly beseech Thee; and do Thou in mercy remember how weak and frail I am. Disease and accident, and the malice of wicked men,—the arrow that flieth by day, and the pestilence that walketh in darkness,—I can neither avoid nor resist, unless Thou, O Jehovah, interpose Thine efficient aids, and be my Bulwark and my Shield. Let my days, if Thy purposes permit, be yet prolonged upon earth for the glory of Thy name and the good of my own soul. O bestow upon me such temporal accommodations as are needful for my well-being, and suitable to my rank in life. Make me to be sober and temperate in my food and apparel, wise in the choice of my friends, prudent in the intercourse of life, and watchful over the motions of my own heart. If Thou art pleased to deny me riches, O make me rich in that better wealth—the graces of the soul. If Thou afflict me, lest I be full and deny Thee, and say, 'Who is Jehovah?' I pray that the affliction may be so regulated and directed of Thee as to produce its proper effect, in subjecting the whole man, soul and body, to Thy holy law.

Alas! O God, I am a rebellious creature, ignorant, weak, and sinful; insufficient of myself to think anything as I ought; both unwilling and unable to do what is pleasing unto Thee, unless Thou work within me the power both of willing and of doing. My holy resolutions perish like the early dew. O stablish and strengthen me, and make me stedfast in the faith of Christ. My righteousness is as a filthy rag: O clothe me with the righteousness of

Christ. I am overrun with evil affections, and so bound in the fetters of sin, as to be unable to do that which my reason approves: O cast every unclean spirit out of me, and let Thy Holy Spirit come unto me, and dwell in their stead.

Who knows, O God, the power of the enemy that lurks within man himself? I acknowledge the deceit and treachery of my own heart. Especially on this night of the week, wherein my Saviour was betrayed and abandoned and disowned of friends, do I mourn over my faithlessness and disloyalty, my flagrant breaches of the law of Christ, and my innumerable apostasies in thought, in word, and in deed. I now bewail before Thee my own wickedness, as well as that of the whole human race; and I confess that, from my youth upwards, my imaginations and purposes and desires have continually tended towards evil. For Christ's sake, do not smite me with the curse which sin deserves, but send me repentance and amendment from on high. Allow not Satan so to gain possession of my heart, through any allurements of wealth, or power, or honour, or sensual gratification, as either to sear my conscience or to cast me into despair. Enable me so to keep Thee and Christ in my eye, as to repel the temptations which come before me in the business of the day. If I awake in the hours which belong to rest, may I remember Thee on my bed, and meditate on my Saviour's life in the silent watches of the night. When I finally retire from the busy scenes of this world to the sleep of the grave, do Thou, for the sake of Him who has already triumphed over death, receive my soul into the mansions of heaven. And

in the last day, when the kingdom of death shall be utterly destroyed, O be pleased to grant me a part in the resurrection of the just, and to save me, soul and body, for ever.

Almighty Father, I pray for all with whom I am connected by the bonds of a common faith, or a common nature; for the whole brotherhood of Christ throughout the world; for my country, my kindred, my neighbourhood, and my acquaintances. Peace be unto all them especially that are of the household of Christ. May they experience that His message is worthy of the most cordial acceptance; that it heightens the joys and eases the sorrows of life, and opens up richer sources of consolation than the world is able to afford. Be pleased to direct the rulers of the land; to watch over her religion and liberties; to forgive her national sins; and to spread the spirit of repentance and reformation among all classes of men. Send forth Thy messengers and servants with the tidings of salvation into the dark places of the earth; and grant that the preaching of the gospel may be accompanied, both here and everywhere, with a divine energy, for discomfiting the powers of sin, and restoring our fallen race to the glorious liberty of the freemen of Christ.

Lord, let the dawn of another morning visit my eyes. Father of lights, make the day-star to arise in my heart; and do Thou grant me to be of the number of them who walk in the light of Thy countenance, for the sake of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray, Our Father, etc.

39. FRIDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY and Omnipresent God, Former of my body, and Father of my spirit, I humbly desire to present myself again before Thee with the voice of adoration and praise. Again hast Thou refreshed my wearied body with the slumbers of night, and allowed my soul to cast off the shackles of sleep, and to resume the use of her rational and religious powers. O that, in now lifting up my thoughts unto Thee, I might consecrate the whole day to the purpose for which all reason and religion are given—the glory of the great Creator. O that a sense of the goodness which brought me into existence at first, and watched over me as heretofore, so also through the bygone night, might constrain me to devote this day, and every day of my life, to the service of the Giver; and so to live here, as it becometh them who would wish to live with Thee in heaven.

I thank Thee, O Eternal and Self-existent God, for life and reason, for relatives and friends, for health and food and raiment, and all the temporal accommodation and comforts that I have ever received or now possess. Especially do I desire on this day of the week—the day wherein my Saviour died upon the cross—to remember what Thou hast done for my immortal soul, to mourn over the guilt which required so precious an atonement, and to pray that Thou wouldst mercifully give me a personal interest in that eternal life which the gospel reveals. I bless Thee that Thy holy Son, the Messiah,

stood forth the Substitute of sinners; and that in a life of trials and afflictions, He merited for others what they were unable to merit for themselves. I praise Thee that, through His mediation, Thou art graciously pleased to be reconciled unto enemies. I rejoice in the efficacy of that holy blood which was shed to expiate the guilt of His people, to redeem their souls from hell, and to procure for them a place in heaven.

O let not my coldness and indifference exclude me from sharing in the love of Christ. O let not my name be blotted out of the book of life. Hide Thy face, O God, from my sins. Blot Thou out all mine iniquities. Let my transgressions vanish away like a cloud; and their enormity and their aggravations do Thou remember no more. O give me the hope and the earnest of eternal life, in giving me a holier life here, and in converting my penitent and contrite soul wholly to Thyself. As Christ died on account of sin, so do Thou grant that I, while I yet live, may die unto sin and live unto righteousness. O extinguish within me all inordinate appetites, all unholy inclinations, all unrighteous and covetous desires, all malignant and envious affections. Bring the unruly passions and turbulent emotions of my soul under the discipline of Christ. Let the old man be crucified with Christ, and the whole strength of sin be destroyed within me by the might and power of His Spirit. Enable me to follow Him, as human frailty will permit, in His humility, His patience, His piety, and self-denial; to bring the flesh under the dominion of the spirit by watchfulness, abstinence, and prayer; and

to repair the injuries which I have done to others in thought, in word, or deed, in wrong advice or evil example. Make me to be strict in my examination of myself, and candid in my judgment of others; to see my own deficiencies, and to allow the excellence of my fellow-men; to approve and cherish and imitate what is good, in whomsoever it may appear.

O gracious God, it is Thou that hast brought me hitherto. It is of Thee that I hold my life; and to Thee it is that I still look up for health and strength and prosperity in such measure as Thou art pleased to allot. This day do I again resign myself into Thy hands, and place myself at Thy disposal. As a Christian, I again renounce the devil, the world, and the flesh. I disclaim all guidance and authority which consist not with the authority of the gospel. And disowning all self-dependence, I acknowledge that there is no other name than that of Christ, through which I can be accepted and saved hereafter. O go along with me through the duties, the engagements and pursuits, which now require my care. Do with me as seemeth good unto Thee. And whatsoever Thou doest, O let it be in mercy to my soul. Let it be to the credit of the gospel, and to the honour of Thy great name, for the sake of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

40. FRIDAY EVENING.

O ALMIGHTY God, Lord of heaven and of earth, Creator, Preserver, and Governor of everything that lives, I desire, in all lowliness of mind, to thank Thee that I have still a part in the world of life. Blessed be Thy holy name, that the day has again revolved to me in peace, and left me in the enjoyment of many mercies, while others have been visited with pain and calamity, with disease and death. O that my heart were suitably affected with a sense of Thy goodness. O that my thoughts were directed beyond the provisions of the passing day to the bread that nourisheth unto eternal life. And do Thou grant, O bountiful and gracious God, that while I partake of these temporal and bodily comforts, I may daily thirst after purer and more substantial pleasure in the glories of heaven.

I thank Thee, O Thou God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, that through Jesus Thou art pleased to be reconciled to penitent sinners, to accept of them again as children, and to be a Father unto them. I rejoice to know that the gospel proclaims mercy unto fallen man; that the salvation of sinners consists with the honour of Thy holy government; and that, through the blood of Christ, they who are now the captives of Satan, obtain redemption—eternal redemption—even the forgiveness of sins and the gift of immortal life.

O merciful Father, grant me to see the malignity of the utter wretchedness of my natural estate, in

the cross of Christ. O constrain me to loathe and to abhor that evil and accursed thing which, separating between man and God, introduced woe into the world, and owned no other remedy than the incarnation, the sufferings, and the death of Thy beloved Son. When sinners entice me to evil, and my own wicked heart is ready to comply, O call Thou up to my remembrance the agony and bloody sweat and doleful words of my dying Lord; and make me to shudder at the thought of doing that which has already brought down a load of suffering upon the innocent Jesus.

Especially on this day of the week—the day wherein He deigned to die and to lie down in the grave—do Thou confirm my resolutions of warring against the powers of sin; and do Thou grant, that whatever tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or peril shall assail me, I may come off a conqueror through the help of my risen and triumphant King. Make me to be mindful of Thy will—both zealous to do it and patient to suffer it; happy in the consciousness of Thy fatherly care, and anxious, whatever be the discipline that I undergo, to approve myself unto Thee. Remove afar from me all defilement of thought, of conversation, and demeanour; and clothe me with the beauties of holiness. Rectify all my erroneous and illiberal opinions. Refine my relish for scriptural truth. Strengthen my memory for the retaining of what I learn. Let the precepts, the promises, and the warnings of Christ be ever ready to resolve my doubts and to enforce my obedience. And do Thou grant, O beneficent God, that the principle of love, without which whosoever liveth is

counted dead before Thee, may be so planted within me by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit, as to be the root of all Christian graces, and the bond of peace between me and my fellow-men.

O merciful Creator, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, and desirest that sinners should be converted and live rather than die, civilise the barbarous nations of the earth, and bring them under the sceptre of the Messiah. Remove the ignorance and stubbornness of unbelievers. Fetch them home from their wanderings. Join them to the flock of Christ. And grant unto all that are called by the name of Israel to be partakers of the promises which were made of old to the fathers. Be very gracious, O God, to this part of the world, where Thou hast cast my lot. Enable all, under a deep sense of the privileges which, as men and as Christians, they enjoy, to fear Thee, to honour the Sovereign, and to love the brotherhood of Christ. Visit my relations with Thy favour and protection; and unite them as brethren of the Lord Jesus unto the great family of heaven. Be a Friend to my friends. Reward the good deeds of my benefactors. Forgive the enmity of my enemies, and give them kindlier affections. And make me also to forgive others, as I wish to be forgiven of Thee. O Thou who layest not on men more than is right, enable them to bear their several burdens. And grant that, in whomsoever sufferings abound as the consequence of sins, consolation also may abound through the grace of Christ. Satisfy the poor with bread. Give a liberal hand unto the rich, and enrich them yet more truly with the wisdom which

teaches them to lend unto Thee, and to look for a return in eternal life.

O bountiful God, give Thou unto me such a portion as Thou seest to be needful for the present time; and be Thou Thyself my portion for eternity. While I sojourn upon earth afar from Thee, do Thou draw me more and more to Thyself with the cords of love. Deliver me from the corruptions of the world and the slavish lusts of the body. And when I put off the body itself, do Thou receive me into heaven, and join me unto Christ in an indissoluble union.

Let the slumbers of night, if it be Thy holy will, again refresh me for the duties of another day. And as I rise here from the bed of nightly rest for my daily pursuits, so also at last may I rise from the bed of death for the sweeter employments of the saints, through the grace of my Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

41. SATURDAY MORNING.

O ETERNAL God, Source of life and of joy, again hast Thou unsealed my eyes and released me from the fetters of sleep, and brought me forth from the chambers of night into the joyful scenes of day. As the shades, under whose covert Thou hast refreshed and renewed my wearied powers, are fled away, so do Thou grant, O Father of lights, that the darkness which broods around my soul may be dispersed; that the path of life

may be unveiled to my view, and I may reach the fountain of light and joy on high. Do Thou graciously disencumber me of all such secular affairs as would retard my heavenly progress. And when my steps are at last involved in the darkness and shadows of the valley of death, O be Thou present with Thy powerful aids, to cheer, to direct, and to sustain my soul.

As Christ, on this day of the week, condescended, for His people's sake, to be the prisoner of the grave, so do Thou enable me, on this day, to bewail the cause of so great a humiliation, and to feel, as becometh me, the mighty debt that I owe unto Him. O that sin, before it slay my soul, were slain within me, and that I were allowed to exult in the liberty wherewith Christ makes His followers to be free. O that I were dead unto sin and alive unto Thee only, and unto Christ, and unto righteousness. O keep me, gracious God, from renewing His pangs, and piercing Him afresh with my sins. And do Thou continually remind me that every eye shall yet see Him coming in the clouds to deliver His people, and to take vengeance upon His enemies.

Enable me, Almighty God, so to follow the example of my Saviour's humility and patience, that He may make me to be partaker of His resurrection and glory. Suppress every rising thought of discontent within me. Extinguish every wicked principle that would lead me to grudge at another's weal. And make me to see that I am unworthy of that which I have already received at Thy bountiful hand. Keep me in remembrance of the lowliness of Christ's worldly rank—how the Son of God became a

man of sorrows, and the just and holy Messiah endured the punishment of a malefactor. If Thou art pleased to afflict me, O grant me to own that I suffer justly. And let the affliction work out for me its proper effect, in amending my heart and life, and in training me for the joys of heaven.

While it is yet day, do Thou make me to be busy, O heavenly Master, in doing whatsoever my hand findeth to do. And grant that, through Thy assistance, I may work out my everlasting salvation, before the darkness of that night in which no man can work, cometh upon me. Enable me to serve Thee in my day and generation, by waiting diligently upon the duties of my station, and striving to fulfil the claims which Thy creatures have upon my time, my substance, and my labour in the various relations of life. Assist me to order my affairs with discretion, to open my mouth with wisdom, to subdue all violence and irritation of temper into the likeness of my Saviour's meekness; and to walk with such circumspection as to give the enemy no opportunity of blaspheming the worthy name by which the Christian is called. Whatsoever I lack, that do Thou, who givest to all men liberally and upbraidest not, give unto me. Make me wise to see the road of duty, and strong to endure the fatigues of my journey, and resolute to hold on therein unto the end. Grant that, renouncing all sloth, and carelessness, and unseemly ease, I may be fervent in spirit, active in business, redeeming the time from unprofitable employments for the service of Christ, and doing whatsoever I do as unto the Lord, and not unto men.

O that, while I live, I might live to Thee and to Christ, and to the good of His Church and the credit of His religion. O that, when I die, I might die full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and ripe for a better world. If it be Thy holy will, let the putting off of this fleshly covering bring me into the presence of Thy glory, and the laying down of my worldly occupations transfer me to the holier employments, the songs, and halleluiahs of the saints.

Let Thy grace, O God, accompany me into the world; and be Thou ever uppermost in my thoughts, whether I lie down or rise up, whether I go forth for labour or retire for repose. Let the week which now draws to a close leave me still in life, like those which have gone before. And do Thou grant that every additional week, every new day, may see the growth of my grace and the increasing intensity of my love. To Thy care do I again commend myself, soul and body, and all my interests, spiritual and temporal, my home, my substance, and everything that is dear to me, through the intervention of my Mediator, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

42. SATURDAY EVENING.

UNTO Thee, O Jehovah, do I again approach with my evening sacrifice; and most humbly do I desire, on the close of another week, to thank Thee for all the weeks and years of my past life, to remember my weakness and mortality, and to meditate on my latter end. Thy glory

and Thy majesty are incapable of decay; and the voice of adoration will arise unto Thee for ever. One generation shall praise Thy works unto another. Thy saints shall talk of Thy power, and declare to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of Thy kingdom unto the end of time.

Almighty God, everything around me passeth away. Even time itself will at last be no more; and the succession of the generations of men will come to an end. But eternity, O God, is Thine; and Thou wilt for ever remain what Thou hast ever been. The heavens which are now stretched over me will be folded up as a vesture. The elements of this nether world will melt with fervent heat, and the earth and all the works thereof will be burnt up with fire. But Thou, free Thyself from all age and change, wilt still as of old, before the birth of creation and of time, continue the living God and self-existent Jehovah. And with that potent word which called the worlds into being at the beginning, Thou wilt rear up other heavens and another earth, the final and everlasting abodes of Thy people.

O Almighty God, prepare me betimes for those everlasting abodes. O that the goodness which has hitherto watched over my earthly pilgrimage, and has now added another day to my short and uncertain life, might give me also hereafter an eternal and unchangeable life, for the sake of Him who died here that His people might live in heaven. O that Christ, the mystery of the gospel, and the hope of glory unto man, might raise me to the heavenly, the incorruptible inheritance which passes not away; and that, in the full assurance of faith, I might be

enabled to look forward in joy to the time of His second coming at the end of the world. O give me, merciful God, the evidence and the credentials of a heavenly inheritance, in a life of faith and holiness upon earth. O let love, joy, peace, meekness, temperance, goodness, righteousness, and truth, the fruit of the Spirit, testify that I belong unto Christ, and am of the number of those who have the promise of eternal life. Enable me, under the influence of so glorious a hope, to purify myself even as Christ is pure. And whatever temptations or allurements or pleasures the world may present, do Thou prevent them from taking off my affections from spiritual objects, and marring my religious joy.

O let not such prosperity as Thou art pleased to grant unto me, pervert my heart and estrange me from the Giver. O let not such comforts as Thou allowest for the sustenance and refreshment of my mortal frame, be turned to the debasement of my rational nature and the ruin of my soul. Enable me so to repress the cravings of unruly appetites and passions as to lay up a portion in store for the necessities of the Church. And do Thou grant, O bountiful Lord, by whom I am fed and clothed and lodged, that I may cheerfully give back a part in good works unto Thee, who art the Giver of the whole. Teach me the knowledge of laying out the deceitful mammon to better purpose than in riotous living and sensual indulgences. Make me to remember that whosoever soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, and that whosoever soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Whilst Thou suppliest my wants, enable me

to honour Thee with my substance, to lend unto Thee in giving alms unto the poor, and to hold fast the faith and the hope of a heavenly treasure in providing, according to my ability and obligation, to my kindred upon earth.

O Thou who art the Maker both of the rich and of the poor, grant unto the poor to be content with their earthly portion, and to be rich in the assurance of a heavenly treasure. And them that are rich in this world do Thou constrain to be rich also in good works, and to trust not in uncertain wealth but in the living God. With Thee is a remedy for every human calamity. Do Thou give comfort to the afflicted and health to the sick, repentance to the wicked, pardon to the penitent, perseverance and hope to Thy people, grace to the living and glory to the dying.

Look down with favour out of Thy holy heaven upon my native land, and bless her in all her interests—in the fruit of her fields and the produce of her waters, in her manufactures and commerce, her religion and literature and laws. Direct her rulers in all their determinations, and enable them to show that they are indeed both free themselves from the tyranny of sin, and anxious to deliver the people.

Be gracious to all my relatives, friends, and neighbours. Increase and refine the joys of mutual intercourse, and put away from among us all grudges and jealousies and heart-burnings. O let the gospel which shines around ourselves shine also upon every people. And do Thou grant that it may speedily be the means of driving every form of superstition out of the earth, and of bringing the whole of mankind into the kingdom of Christ.

Do Thou again, O God, disperse the darkness which broods around me, and enlighten my eyes with to-morrow's dawn, and shine into my soul with Thy heavenly radiance, the grace and comfort of Thy Holy Spirit. Let the morning which saw the resurrection of Christ, see me also awaking out of sleep, to rise with Him in spirit and affection to the skies, and to dedicate another day to the remembrance of His beneficent life. And do Thou grant, O gracious God, that in the consummation of all things, I also may arise from the bed of death to everlasting life, and pass into the skies under the conduct of my risen Lord, in whose name and words I continue my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

FOURTH WEEK.

43. SUNDAY MORNING.

O THOU, whose are both the day and the night, I thank Thee that Thou hast again opened my eyes upon the light of a Christian Sabbath. I bless Thee that I am still allowed to enter upon the duties of another week; and I most earnestly beseech Thee so to assist me in the spending of this day, as to give me comfort and the hope of good behaviour and good success in the days of secular employment. O let the rest which, of Thy ordinance, this holy day bringeth to the bodies of men, tranquillize my whole soul, and enable me to give myself wholly up to spiritual matters—to the examination of my past life and of my future prospects, to confession of sin, to deprecation of wrath, to comprecation of grace, and to heartier resolutions of amendment. Make me to know and to feel as I ought my own sinfulness and spiritual destitution, my guilt in the sight of Heaven, and the ruin, the misery, and woe to which, as a sinner unable to atone for the violation of Thy holy law, I am exposed. Enable me, under the influence of such convictions, to flee for refuge unto Christ, and in the full persuasion of His sufficiency, to hold fast the hope which is set before me in the

gospel. And as He on the morning of this day proved Himself to be indeed a Saviour, the Conqueror of sin and death, in rising from the dead, so, through the aids of Thy mighty Spirit, may I more and more conquer the power of sin in my body now, and the power of death and of hell in the glorious union of my soul and body hereafter.

O Thou who art the Life and Light of men, give me again this day my bread and temporal accommodations, and mercifully enable me to see in my growing faith and temperance and heavenly-mindedness, that Thou art indeed nourishing my soul unto eternal life, and preparing me for heaven. Do Thou again go with me to the sanctuary, and enable me to assist in its holy services with all seriousness and devotion. Raise my mind from the thoughts of this world to the contemplation of heavenly glories. Make me to join fervently with Thy people in the praises and prayers of Thy house, and to hear my duties with an honest and teachable heart. And do Thou enable me so to profit by the holy employments and instructions of this day, as to see the path of duty, and to walk therein all the days of the week, in the hope of entering upon the services of a heavenly Sabbath, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

44. SUNDAY EVENING.

O JEHOVAH, Dispenser of the joy of heaven, I thank Thee that Thou hast again permitted me to enjoy a Sabbath upon earth; and I humbly pray that Thou

wouldst be pleased to prepare me, through the services of my earthly Sabbaths, for the holier services of an eternal Sabbath in heaven. I praise Thee that my life has been extended through so many days and weeks and years, that the tidings of another world and another life have reached me, afar though I be from the land of Canaan, and that a Church of Christ affords me the means of grace, and warns and exhorts me so to pass the time of my pilgrimage as not to be excluded at last from the abode of the saints —the Jerusalem which is above. Do Thou strengthen, stablish, and confirm within me the holy thoughts which the services of this day called up to remembrance, my repentance and hatred of sin, my purposes of amendment, and my desires of grace and holiness, of pardon, and of eternal life.

O let the blessed Jesus, in whose honour I have again hallowed the first day of the week, hold possession of my affections all the other days also, and grant me my necessary supplies, both spiritual and temporal, and keep me sober and thankful and humble, and lead me safely through the intricacies and dangers, the difficulties and temptations, of the world. Through whatsoever scenes my journey may lie, I earnestly desire to follow Christ, in the path of duty, unto Thee. O let me not walk in darkness! O let not the light of heavenly truth—the light of Thy word, Thy worship, and ordinances, shine upon me in vain. But do Thou so order and direct all my goings, that as the dawn brightens gradually into the splendour of day, so may my path issue in the joy and glories of heaven.

O Father of mankind, let the knowledge of Thee, of

Thy Son, and Thy Sabbaths be revealed unto the heathen, and professed and owned with more affectionate hearts in every Church. Especially be gracious to my own Church and nation; to the Sovereign and Royal Family; to all rulers, civil and ecclesiastical; to the congregation with which I worship, and the district wherein I reside; to my relatives, friends, companions, and neighbours; and to all who desire my remembrance, or stand in need of the prayers of a brother, according to their various wants, their afflictions, losses, calamities, or sins.

Do Thou, O God, who alone art never weary, and never ceasest from beneficent deeds, allow me to partake again of the refreshment of sleep. Bring me forth, if it be Thy holy will, in the morning, to manifest in the proper duties of my station, that I have partaken also of the hallowing influences of the Christian Sabbath. And grant, O Thou in whose favour there is life, both now and for evermore, that at the consummation of all things also I may come forth holy, both in soul and in body, to take a part with the innumerable company of angels in the halleluiahs of the heavenly temple, through the mediation of Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

45. MONDAY MORNING.

O GOD, I praise Thee for the creation of the world, for the redemption of the fallen race of man, and for the many favours, both spiritual and temporal, which Thou

hast bestowed upon myself. Of Thy goodness I was born within the pale of a Christian Church, and devoted unto Thee in baptism. Ever since I was born, even all my life long, Thou hast cared for me, hast afforded me the means of grace, and called me to the hope of glory.

O merciful God, I acknowledge that from the beginning I have gone astray from Thee, my Lord and Master, and that, as a sinner, I am a miserable and helpless creature, altogether undone. I have not cared for the knowing of Thee and the doing of Thy holy will. But I have done my own sinful will, and followed the inclinations of my own foolish heart. And now I deserve nothing at Thy hands save the wrath and curse which are due to sin. Have mercy upon me, O God; turn me to Thyself in a thorough repentance, and grant me the forgiveness of my sins for the sake of the sinless Jesus. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. O give me a true and firm faith. O establish a lively hope of immortality in my soul, and enable me to manifest, in evidence of my faith and hope, a fervent charity towards all mankind. Make me henceforward to be, above all things, careful of pleasing Thee, and of seeking the righteousness which Thy kingdom requires. Enable me to be meek and patient; sober and just and chaste; thankful in any condition of life; compassionate towards the poor, the ignorant, and the wicked; diligently attentive to the various obligations of domestic and social life; and respectful and obedient to them that are over me; both seeking the advancement of the Messiah's kingdom for the welfare of others, and growing daily myself in the love and know-

ledge and fear of Thee, and in the observance of Thy holy laws.

I thank Thee, O my God, for the care which Thou hast taken of me this last night. Do Thou watch over me still throughout the day. Keep me mindful all the day long, whithersoever I go and in whatsoever business I am engaged, that I am always in the sight of an Omniscient God; and do Thou, of Thy great mercy, grant me so to regulate my conversation and conduct through the whole course of this mortal life, that, when at last it comes to an end, I may be permitted to partake of eternal life in heaven, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

46. MONDAY EVENING.

O GRACIOUS God, what shall I render unto Thee for the many benefits which I have received all my life long, undutiful and disobedient though I have been? O be pleased to accept of the sacrifice which I now offer unto Thee for all Thy past care and kindness—the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and the oblation of a contrite and humble spirit. As Thou hast preserved me from the dangers of another day, O preserve me also henceforward from all that is displeasing unto Thee, and hurtful to the welfare of my soul; and do Thou grant that Thy goodness, softening my hard and rebellious heart, may lead me to repentance and to amendment of life. O keep me from taking Thy

name in vain; from cursing, swearing, and lying; from idleness, stubbornness, and pride; from all uncleanness and gluttony and drunkenness; from all malice, envy, strife; from all covetous, presumptuous, and inordinate desires. Put Thy Holy Spirit within me. Establish me firmly in the faith of the gospel. Make me so to understand and to relish the life and precepts of Jesus, as to follow His steps and to do His will. Let neither the cares of this life, nor the love of money, nor the influence of evil company, nor the corrupt customs of the surrounding world, withdraw me from my allegiance and duty. And do Thou grant that, denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, I may be enabled to live piously, righteously, and soberly in this present evil world, and to die a faithful servant of Christ in the hope and assurance of a better life.

O God, send Thy Son's gospel over all the world. Bless the churches of our own land. Preserve the Sovereign and the Royal Family, and give them those inward graces which alone are an ornament in the kingdom of heaven. Direct our judges and magistrates in their decisions. Sanctify the ministers of religion for the sanctifying and the edifying of their congregations. Visit them that are in trouble with Thy consolations. Be kind to all my kindred, friends, and neighbours. Bless and forgive my enemies; and implant and maintain a kind and forgiving disposition in my own soul.

Do Thou again, O God, watch over me and defend me from the perils of night. Keep me in remembrance of death and of judgment; and enable me so to pass the time of my pilgrimage in Thy fear, and in expectation of

Thy summons, that when Thou, my Lord and Master, callest me hence, whether by day or by night, I may be ready for my departure. Hear me, O merciful God, from Thy holy habitation, and grant these my desires, and whatsoever else Thou knowest me to stand in need of, either for soul or body, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

47. TUESDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY God, Creator, Upholder, and Governor both of heaven and of earth, I thank Thee for watching over me in the silence of the past night, and allowing me to behold the light of another morning. Let Thy kind providence still protect me through the day. And do Thou graciously enable me to be diligent in my affairs, and dutiful in all the relations of life. O make me to be ever mindful of Thee, of Thy precepts and ordinances. Preserve me from sickness and danger, and especially from idleness and sin. Keep me far from wicked companions. Suffer not the example of fallen creatures to seduce me from the Creator. And enable me, under the example and guidance of Christ, to escape the lusts and evil practices which reign in the world. Forgive my former transgressions, and imprint upon my mind such a sense of Thy omniscient eye, as will prevent me from straying into the ways of sin. Grant that, as I grow in age, so also I may grow in grace and goodness, in the love

of truth, and in the hatred of every malicious thought, of every deceitful word, every dishonest and ungodly deed.

All that awaits me in the world do Thou turn to Thine own glory, and make instrumental to my spiritual improvement. If Thou shalt send me days of joy, do Thou enable me to look upward with gratitude unto Thee; and, instead of glorying in myself, to ascribe the gifts to the proper Giver, and to remember the wants of His suffering creatures. If Thou shalt visit me with poverty or distress, do Thou strengthen me with the graces of fortitude, of patience, and contentment. Do Thou purify the inner man from all inordinate lust of earthly things. And train me up to the perfection of those, who, suffering like Christ on earth, are glorified with Christ in heaven.

Let this day, O God, if it be Thy holy will, pass over me in joy, and renew Thy mercies both for my soul and my body. And when I have finished the time which Thou allottest to me here, O admit me, I humbly pray, to serve Thee in heaven with a purer worship, for the sake of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

48. TUESDAY EVENING.

O GREAT and glorious Jehovah, Upholder of my life and Giver of all my enjoyments, I bless Thy watchful providence, and most fervently present my thanks unto Thee for the care which Thou hast taken of me this day.

I beseech Thee to forgive the sins and follies into which I have again fallen, to the discredit of the gospel, and the discomfort of my own soul. O Thou with whom is the fountain of life, be mercifully pleased still to add to my days. Do Thou strengthen me in the inner man, that I may serve Thee better in the various duties to which I may be called in the world. And O grant that the failures of the past may constrain me to fear and to be humble, and to put my trust not in myself but in Thee.

I thank Thee, O Thou who assignest unto men their several lots in the world, that I was born and still live in a Christian land, and that I enjoy the benefit of Christian ministrations. I bless Thee for the education which taught me to know Thy great name and the name of Thy Son the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between Thee and men. Do Thou enable me to show that I am both truly sensible of my advantages and careful to improve them, in enabling me to live a sober, a devout, and an honest life. O teach me to seek after happiness in the discharge of Christian duty. And in a most especial manner do Thou make me to promote the comfort of all to whom I am more closely bound by any of the ties of life. Do Thou, the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, keep me in remembrance that, as I profess to be a Christian, so also my prayers and good offices are specially due unto the Church of Christ. And do Thou, the common Father of all men, constrain me to be so thankful unto Thee for my own privileges, as to further, according to my means and station, all laudable and pru-

dent measures for the alleviation of human ill, whether it be ignorance or sin, calamity, disease, or want.

Let that good providence, O Almighty God, which watched over me throughout the day, continue, I beseech Thee, to protect me throughout the night. Refresh my wearied frame in the hours of sleep. Renew my strength for the business of another day. And when my time shall at last expire, and the night come, in which no man can work, O grant me to see the eternal day of heaven, through the intercession of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I conclude my imperfect prayers: Our Father, etc.

49. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY Creator, Thine is the day and Thine is the night, and, at Thy command, they come and they go. I thank Thee, that in the alternate succession of light and darkness, I have been so long allowed to behold the glorious luminaries of the sky, the sun and moon and stars—the innumerable host of heaven. Lord, what am I that Thou shouldst remember me in so vast a world, and that, while many have fallen asleep in death during the night, I should be again permitted to open my eyes upon the world of life? Well does it become me to remember Thee with my earliest thoughts, and to thank Thee for the renewal of my life. And as Thou wast about my bed through the night, so also be Thou pleased, O Father of lights, to be about my path through the day,

that, to what duty soever I may be called, I may be kept from stumbling.

In Thee, Almighty God, is no darkness at all. But, alas! I am blind and ignorant, and naturally alienated from the divine life. An evil heart is within me, and shows itself in evil and unholy conduct. Often, when I have known what was good, I have done what was evil. And though Thou speakest plainly to me in Thy holy word, I have not heard as if I understood or believed.

From Thy high and holy heaven look down, O mighty God, upon this dark and evil world, and have compassion on Thy helpless creatures. Thou knowest my manifold sins and wants. O send relief to me from on high, and let the richness of Thy grace appear in making me what Thy law requires me to be. I am ignorant: do Thou instruct me. I am weak: do Thou infuse strength and resolution into my soul. I am wicked: do Thou convert me from sin unto Thyself. I am guilty: O, for Christ's sake, forgive mine iniquities, and enable me so to conquer and overthrow them now, that they may not be remembered against me hereafter. Give me now a true and godly repentance, and constrain me, in the hatred of sin and the love of holiness, to turn from the service of Satan to the service of the living God. Keep me from separating the faith from the duty of the gospel, and from expecting to be owned of Thee, if I disown the precepts of Christ. Replenish my mind with all good desires, and enable me, through Thy mighty aid, to bring them to good effect. Let the growing purity of my heart appear in the growing purity of my speech and behaviour. And while I

profess to delight in Thy law after the inward man, do Thou enable me to subject the outward man to it more and more in all its branches. Set a watch, O Lord of Hosts, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips. Make me to be true and faithful and kind unto others, in evidence of my having myself received the words of Jesus into a true and honest heart. Whatever intercourse, at the call of duty, I may have with sinners, do Thou restrain me from casting in my lot among them, from joining with them in any wicked work, or allowing their table to become a snare to my soul. And in the words of Him, who, while He was the Friend of sinners, was Himself free from sin, I further pray: Our Father, etc.

50. WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O JEHOVAH, Lord of universal nature, the day is again gone, and the evening calls my thoughts unto Thee. And again, O beneficent God, I acknowledge the Providence which still upholds me in life, and visits me with fresh tokens of regard. As Thou hast again been a shield and a buckler to me amid the dangers of the world, and protected me from the arrow that flieth by day, even from the sickness which destroyeth at the noonday, so let me still be safe as under the shadow of Thy wings throughout the night. Do Thou defend me from the pestilence which walketh in darkness. Do Thou prepare me, by the refreshment of sleep, for entering again upon the discharge of my duties, and the enjoyment of Thy favour. And if Thy glory and my own good permit, do

Thou satisfy me with long life here, and show me Thy salvation in heaven at last.

O Thou, in whose favour is life, and who art the Source of all illumination, give a new life to the inner man—the soul within me—and irradiate my darkened mind with Thy heavenly light. Build up again the ruins of my fallen nature, and let all my sentiments and behaviour, all my desires and pursuits, be daily more and more expressive of the image in which man was originally formed. O give me the true freedom—a deliverance from the bondage of sin. Dethrone the iniquity which tyrannizes in my soul. Cleanse the chambers of my imagination, and drive away impure, unrighteous, and malignant thoughts. Establish the supremacy of religion within me. Bring my rebellious faculties under the government of her holy laws. Make the love of Thee to be the ruling power both in my heart and in my life. And grant me to aspire after the noblest of honours, in seeking the mastery over myself, and to subject my will in all things unto Thine. Knowing that the faith which justifieth a sinner before Thee is not a speculative notion, but an active and influential principle productive of good works, I pray that to my faith Thou wouldst enable me, more and more, daily to add virtue. Through Thy mighty grace, let temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity so abound in me as to prove that I am neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. While it is Thy holy will that I shall continue a pilgrim upon earth, do Thou so provide for me and keep me in Thy fear at the same time, that I may neither lack anything that is really

needful, nor pervert what Thou givest to the dishonour of the Giver. And now unto Thee do I commend myself, soul and body, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

51. THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, my Preserver amidst the darkness of night, I thank Thee that I am again allowed to wake into life, and I humbly pray that Thou wouldst still extend Thy protection towards me throughout the day upon which I have now entered. I have rested through the night as beneath the shelter of Thy pavilion. Do Thou now enable me to go through the business of the day and the duties of my station, in Thy strength and under the guidance of Thy holy law. Of myself I am weak and feeble and ignorant, liable to many evils which I can neither foresee nor repel, to losses and calamities, to diseases, temptations, and death. Overrule and restrain the natural corruption of my heart, and bring all my faculties and powers into subjection to Christ. Put Thy grace within me. Enlighten the eyes of the inner man. Strengthen me for the work which Thou hast allotted to me upon earth. Remove all stumbling-blocks out of my way. And grant that, disentangling myself from the bondage of the world, and from the encumbrance of evil passions, I may look forward with the eye of faith unto Jesus, and run with patience the race which is set before me.

Gracious God, enable me so to run as to obtain the prize, even the crown of glory, the prize of the Christian's

high calling in heaven. Restore me more and more into Thine own image, the image in which man was originally created. And if it be Thy holy will, let the evidence of my future salvation be manifested, both unto myself and unto the world, in the increasing sanctification of my whole nature, soul and body. Of Thine infinite mercy, forgive my past transgressions, wash me from all mine iniquities, cover all my imperfections with the robe of my Redeemer's righteousness; and grant that my heart, instead of being stubborn and rebellious, may be right and stedfast with Thee, and cleave to what is good. Henceforward let my greatest fear be the fear of offending Thee, and my most ardent wish, the wish of knowing Thy law and partaking of Thy holiness.

O keep me from trusting to the dead faith which is without works. O give me that divine faith, which is a principle of spiritual life and a source of holy obedience, —the faith which cannot be held without a good conscience,—the faith which overcometh the world and repelleth its temptations, and which, working through the royal law of love in the heart of the Christian, makes his life to be fruitful in the virtues and graces of the gospel. And, O gracious God, do Thou bestow upon me this divine faith, Thy special gift. Do Thou enable me to live the life which I now live in the flesh by the faith of Thy dear Son. And do Thou grant, of Thy free grace, that I may be saved through this faith with an everlasting salvation, and admitted into Thy presence to partake of eternal life, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

52. THURSDAY EVENING.

O ETERNAL God, who art always the same, yesterday and to-day and for ever, I acknowledge the goodness, which again throughout another day has preserved me alive amidst all the changes and deaths of the surrounding world. O Thou who neither slumberest nor art weary, be still my Preserver through the season of the night, and grant me the repose which is needful for refreshing my weary frame, and renewing my languid powers both of body and of mind. If it be Thy holy will, let the same almighty power which has brought me safely through the business of the day, sanctify my soul with the thoughts of another world, where the sun goeth not down, and of another service which bringeth no weariness along with it. Prepare me, I beseech Thee, betimes for closing my eyes in the sleep of death, and going home into another life. And most earnestly do I pray that the days and employments of the present life may terminate in the everlasting day of heaven, and the holier services of a spiritual world.

For the sake of Jesus, forgive, O most merciful Father, the sins of my past life. Through the influence of Thy Holy Spirit, do Thou produce within me such a thorough loathing of sin, and such an ardent desire of holiness, and such a zealous desire after a new and a better obedience, as become the profession of the gospel. And let my growth in grace and goodness and holy joy be, through all my future life, a growing evidence of Thy free forgiveness, and of my

own eternal salvation. Enable me to watch successfully over the secret workings of my heart, to preserve my imagination from the dominion of unholy affections, and to subdue the inner man in all its faculties and powers to the law of Christ. Do Thou so give me the command of myself, that my body may be subjected to my soul, that my earthly appetites and desires may be regulated by the dictates of heavenly wisdom, and that in spite of the pains and weaknesses and indispositions of the flesh, the graces of the spirit may be lively and vigorous within me.

While I am still on earth, uphold, I beseech Thee, my health; strengthen all my powers both of soul and of body for Thy service; and bless me with all such temporal success as may consist with my character and station, and may be subservient to my eternal interests.

And, O Father of mankind, remember in mercy the spiritual and temporal wants of all Thy creatures up and down the world, and especially the interests of those with whom I am more nearly connected—my kindred, acquaintance, and neighbourhood. And upon all of them, as well as upon myself, do Thou send down peace and prosperity, especially the health and prosperity of the soul, through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour, in whose words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

53. FRIDAY MORNING.

AGAIN, O Jehovah, I lift up my soul unto Thee in the morning, and desire, with all reverence, to acknowledge the care which has watched over me through another

night. I have again lain down and slept and awaked, for Thou hast sustained and preserved me. In the helpless hours of darkness and of slumber, Thy presence has been my safety; and Thy mighty Spirit, which first breathed a living soul into my body, is still the Upholder of my life. Let Thy favour, I beseech Thee, be still with me throughout the day; and whithersoever I go, and whatsoever I do, restrain Thou me alike from sin and protect me from harm. Ward off disease and infection from my body. Uphold my health and my strength. Prosper me in my worldly affairs. Provide for me all such needful supplies as are suitable to my situation in life. And whatsoever Thou providest, let Thy blessing accompany the provision, so that it may be a mean of good to me and not of evil.

Above all things, let my soul prosper, and the graces of the Christian life thrive within me. Sanctify me daily, more and more, through Thy word and Thy grace, through the truths of the gospel and the influences of the Holy Ghost. Justify me freely through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, from all my transgressions. And, O gracious God, do Thou grant me an evidence of my justification in a greater abundance of the fruits of faith. And allow me, through Thy mighty aids, to see a pledge of pardon and of eternal life in the subduing of the power of sin within me, and the renewing of my whole nature more and more after the image of Christ.

Almighty God, grant that as I profess the doctrine of Christ, so I may always be animated by His Spirit. Let it continually appear, that while I delight in Thy law after the inward man, I strive to subject the outward man to its

requirements. Enable me through the whole course of life to die unto sin, to mortify the body in its evil affections before it be dissolved in death, and to attain to the joyful assurance of a better world when mortality is swallowed up of life. O grant that my thoughts may be directed to proper objects. Keep me out of the way of evil. Remove scenes of vanity far from my eyes. Make my ears to be deaf to the solicitations of sinners. Prevent me from following the example of them who have gone astray from Christ. And do Thou so rectify and regulate all my passions and affections, that instead of being slaves to sin and torments to myself, they may subserve the interests of holiness, and prove the means of increasing my happiness and furthering my salvation, through the intercession of Him, in whose words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

54. FRIDAY EVENING.

JEHOVAH, eternal and self-existent God, Giver, Upholder, and Owner of my life, I remember my duty and my obligations to Thee; and I humbly desire to hallow the evening with thoughts of my heavenly Benefactor, and to seek Thy protection during the silence and helplessness of night. O Thou whose ever-wakeful eye sees equally by night and by day, and whose mighty arm needs no rest for the recruiting of its strength, I pray that I may be allowed to enjoy Thy providential care through the night, and to derive such refreshment from sleep as will strengthen me for the joyful and successful

discharge of the duties of another day. And O grant that as the light of morn unveils Thy glorious works to the eye of the body, so may the light of heavenly truth enlighten my soul, and show me the way in which I ought to walk, whatever darkness or temptations may surround me. O Thou, from whom came Jesus, the true Light, the Light of the world, whom if I follow I shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, I humbly beseech Thee to give me a teachable disposition, to extinguish the natural pride of the human heart within me, and to make me a disciple of Jesus both in word and in deed. While a wicked heart and evil deeds persuade the sinner to love darkness rather than light, do Thou enable me to view every part of my conduct in the light of the glorious gospel, and so to believe in Him who came to be the Light of the world that I may be a child of light; and, escaping at last from the darkness and ignorance and sin of the present world, may see the light of eternal life in heaven.

Gracious God, enable me to exhibit a virtuous and holy life, as the evidence and effect of my faith in Christ. And do Thou grant that, as a good tree bringeth forth good fruit, so may I, deriving a wholesome nourishment from Christ, even as the branch does from the vine, be fruitful in every good thing, and abound in love and kindness toward all. O renew my fallen nature into a greater resemblance of Christ. Dissolve the thraldom in which my will is held by sin. Remove the natural stubbornness and perversity of my mind through the mighty operation of heavenly grace. Strengthen me in all my powers and faculties for the performance of duty and the endurance

of trials. Subdue my passions into the service of religion. Drive every false maxim and erroneous sentiment out of my mind. Array my inner man in the garb of humility and beauty of holiness. While I seek after human knowledge, and strive to excel in my worldly pursuits, make me to seek also for the highest excellence in the vocation of Christ. And whatsoever objects or gains or joys entice my heart here, O may all my desires, and inclinations, and affections still turn unto Thee, their true and rightful Lord, and seek their home and gratification in heaven.

And now, O God, Creator of all men as well as myself, let me remember the welfare of my fellow-creatures, and pray more especially that sinners may be converted from the error of their ways; that doubters may be relieved from their perplexities; that apostates may return, and own their baptismal engagements; that saints may be edified in knowledge, and in holiness, and joy; and that they of the Gentile world who have not yet heard of the Messiah, may be speedily illuminated with the light of His heavenly truth. And in His name and words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

55. SATURDAY MORNING.

O THOU who dwellest in unapproachable light, who art Light Thyself, and in whom there is no darkness at all, I come, with a new day, to thank Thee that I have again slept in safety, and am again allowed to open mine eyes upon the glories of Thy creation. Let Thine eye be upon me for good throughout the day; and whithersoever

I go, and whatsoever I do, I pray that Thy presence may still be with me, to protect and to console me, if danger or affliction or temptation shall come in my way.

I confess that I am feeble and ignorant and sinful, and unable of myself to resist evil in any of the manifold shapes in which it may assail me. I acknowledge that, so corrupt is my nature as to be averse unto that which it is both my interest and my duty to perform, and from which the purest joy of intellectual creatures is derived. O rectify the fallaciousness of my views and the disorderliness of my affections; and enable me both to know and to do Thy will, in spite of the solicitations of an evil world and of a treacherous heart. O give me to mortify my lusts and to govern my passions—to disown the slavery of sin and to own the sovereignty of religion. Cleanse my heart from all sinful thoughts. Allow no loose or indecent discourse to come out of my mouth. Keep my feet from going astray in the company of sinners. Restrain me from either taking or giving a bad example—from either following a multitude to do evil or perverting a companion from the conduct which becomes a Christian. Remind me continually that they who walk with the wicked here will have their portion with the wicked hereafter. And make me to beware of the doom of those who offend the little ones of Christ, and put a stumbling-block in the way of the ignorant. While I live in a wicked world, do Thou assist me to keep myself free from its stains and its pollutions. While I hold converse with men, and mingle in things below, do Thou enable me to set my affections on things above, and to seek the

communion and the employments of the heavenly host. Whatever portion of wealth or power or knowledge Thou mayest give me, O give me also to be holy and humble. If Thou shalt visit me with poverty or the temporal calamities of life, O make me to be thankful and submissive; to be patient in tribulation and joyful in persecution; to bless them that curse me, to do good to them that hate me; and, renouncing everything that would estrange me from Thee, to bear my cross and to follow Christ. Forbid that I should think of glorying in anything save in the Cross of my Lord Jesus Christ, whereby the world is crucified unto the Christian, and the Christian unto the world. And do Thou enable me so to acknowledge the sceptre of my risen and triumphant Lord, and to obey the laws of His kingdom, as to feel that I may indeed glory in His cross, and entrust the salvation of my soul to the merits of His holy sacrifice. And in His name and words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

56. SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, Creator of heaven and of earth, of angels and of men, Thou art the same now that Thou wast of old and wilt ever be. Thou changest not. Of Thy years there is no end. Through all eternity, both the eternity which is past and the eternity which is coming, Thou, O Jehovah, art God.

But, alas! man is of few days, and those days are full of trouble. Sin made him mortal; and pain and toil,

and disease and death, bring him down to the dust out of which he was taken.

I bless Thee, O gracious God, that while death is overthrowing my fellow-creatures round about, day and night still revolve with safety to myself, and I am allowed to see the close of another week in the land of the living. Because Thou hast been my shield and my defence, I have lain down and risen up; I have slept and awaked; I have gone out and come in, without perishing under the assaults of the King of Terrors. If it be Thy holy will, O spare me still for a longer space of time. Let day after day and week after week still come and go in joy. And when at last Thou shalt give commandment that time shall be no more for me, O do Thou grant me an eternal life in heaven, for the sake of Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And whether Thou appointest that my days on earth shall be still many or few, I pray that Thou wouldst keep me in mind of my frailty, and make me to prepare betimes for my latter end. Enable me, through Thy grace, so to live in the love and in the fear of Thee, that, instead of being afraid to die, I may rejoice in the prospect of eternal life. And do Thou grant that the power and the love of sin may so die within me in the course of this mortal life, that I may have peace on the bed of death, and commit my spirit into Thy hand in confidence and hope.

O let my faith be indeed the faith which worketh by love, and is seen in good works. O let those virtues which are the fruit of Thy Holy Spirit, appear in my life, and show to me that I have an interest in the blood

of Christ. O grant me such success in cultivating the graces of holiness, and justice, and temperance, and universal righteousness, as will permit me to hope that, through Christ, I may be justified of Thee hereafter, and wholly sanctified in all my faculties and powers, and glorified for evermore among the saints in Thy heavenly kingdom.

Almighty Father, remember in mercy the heathen nations, who, though they are hastening away from time into eternity, are ignorant of Thee and of themselves, of the Cross of Christ and of His spiritual kingdom. And do Thou grant unto sinners of every land and kindred, both the means of Christian knowledge and the desire of having a better life here, and of enjoying an eternal life in heaven.

And O, gracious God, as Thou hast brought me to the close of another week, and allowest me the prospect of another Sabbath, so do Thou soothe all my powers into a suitable repose for the solemnities of the Sabbath, and prevent the intrusion of all vain thoughts and worldly concerns. Do Thou so refresh me, soul and body, in the slumbers of night, that in the morning I may come forth with a cheerful and lively heart for the discharge of my devotional duties, whether private or public. And if I shall awake in the hours of darkness, be Thou a light and comfort to my soul, and enable me to begin betimes those holy meditations which are the business of the coming day, and the sweetest employment of the Christian on the bed of death. And now I conclude my prayer in the name and in the words of my blessed Saviour: Our Father, etc.

57. INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

I TIM. II. 1, 2.

(1.) *For the Heathen.*

O ALMIGHTY God, common Father of all mankind, with gladness do I call to mind the benevolent words which exhort us to pray for one another, and to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings on account of all men unto Thee. I acknowledge that we are all of us brethren and members of the same great family, and that upon all of us lies the obligation of remembering one another at the throne of grace. I thank Thee that the earth is full of Thy goodness for the benefit of Thy creatures; and I earnestly pray that the many mercies, spiritual and temporal, of which I have myself partaken, may be communicated to others, wherever they are needed, for the supply of their wants, the protection of their lives, and the salvation of their souls. Impart, I beseech Thee, to the barbarous and heathen nations, the advantages to which, through Thy favour, we have attained—civilisation and commerce, just and equitable laws, and the several arts and sciences, the ornament and comfort of human life. Especially do Thou grant them the gift of the true religion in the gospel of Jesus, and make them to flourish in the concerns of their souls and

the business of an eternal world. O bring the whole body of the Gentiles unto Christ. Make kings to be nursing fathers, and queens to be nursing mothers to the Church; and let the earth at last rejoice that light is sprung up upon all them that sit in the shadowy region of death, and that Thy house is become a house of prayer for all nations.

(2.) *For the Jews.*

Arise, O Jehovah, and have mercy upon the Zion which Thou lovedst of old. Choose Jerusalem again; raise up the fallen tabernacle of David; and let Thy glory be yet seen upon Thy holy hill. Pour Thou out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and enable them to look upon Him whom they pierced, even their own Messiah, with the eye of faith, and to mourn for Him as a man mourneth for an only son. Make Thou a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Put Thy law into their inward parts; yea, write it now in their hearts, as of old upon the tables of stone. Through Christ be Thou again their God, and they Thy people. Give all of them, from the least to the greatest, to know and acknowledge Thee as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ; and let the offering of Judah and of Jerusalem be again pleasant unto Thee, O Jehovah, as in the days of old.

(3.) *For the Spread of the Gospel.*

Grant Thy countenance, O God, to every prudent design and laudable exertion for propagating the knowledge of the gospel throughout the world. O Thou in whose

hands are the hearts of men, and who turnest them whithersoever Thou wilt, provide the necessary means of conversion. Diffuse an abundance of ministerial qualifications through the Church, in knowledge and eloquence and holy zeal. Accompany the message which the mouth of man delivers with the powerful demonstration of the Holy Ghost; and grant that, warring under the standard of the Cross, the Christian missionary may continually gain new triumphs for the gospel, and deliver many souls that sit in darkness in the prison-house of sin.

(4.) *For the Restraining of the Enemies of the Cross.*

Remove every Antichrist, every hindrance and obstruction, out of the way of religion. Restrain the power and the wrath of them who are the enemies of the Cross of Christ. Unto the fool, who saith in his heart, 'There is no God,' do Thou show his folly and perversity, and teach him to see the Creator in the works of creation—yea, to discern the eternal power and godhead of Thee, the invisible God, in the visible things which Thou hast made. Them that take counsel against Thee and Thy Messiah, and strive to draw others into the breaking of Thy commandments, do Thou, who sittest in heaven, confound in their designs, and fill their faces with shame, so that they may repent, and be delivered from the power of those strong delusions by which their souls are held.

(5.) *For the Persecuted and Oppressed.*

I remember before Thee them that are in bonds for the sake of Christ, as if I were bound with them, inasmuch as

I am bound along with them in the bonds of the same gospel, and in the service of the same Master. Put an end to the triumphs of persecution over all the earth, and repress the evil spirit that stirreth up the children of disobedience to vex the Church and to shed the blood of the saints.

(6.) *For the Revival of the Early Churches.*

Let the glory of the early churches break forth anew in these latter days; let the land of Canaan be gladdened again with the light of Thy countenance; and let the golden candlesticks, which were set by Thee of old for the illumination of the Eastern world, again dispel the darkness of heathenism, and put the impostures and deceits of false religion to flight. And let it be evidently seen in a growing holiness of heart and of life, that He who was dead and is alive again for evermore, is in the midst of them with His gifts and graces and heavenly consolations. Remember Thou their tribulation, their poverty, and where they dwell—even where Satan's seat is; and make them to remember whence they are fallen, and to repent, and to do the first works, and to be watchful, and to strengthen the things which remain. Purge away all their dross; restore to them the liberty wherewith Christ made them free; and enable them to reflect with joy that, as Thou rebukest and chastenest whomsoever Thou lovest, so, if they be patient, and hold fast the name of Christ, and keep His works unto the end of the trial, Thou wilt give them power over the heathen.

(7.) *For our own Nation and Church.*

Lord, be merciful to ourselves, our own nation and Church. I acknowledge that, both as individuals and as a community, we have most ungratefully declined from our former earnestness and affection. O remove not our candlestick out of its place. O be not so grieved with our provocations as to deprive us of Thy Son's kingdom now, or to exclude us from Thy rest hereafter. Our fathers have told us what works Thou didst for us in their days. Thou hast set up Thy tabernacle among us, and made it precious in our eyes with the blood of martyrs and of saints. Through the laws which Thou hast given us, there is now peace to him that goeth out and to him that cometh in. Nor hast Thou hitherto forsaken us, or taken away our privileges, O Thou Holy One, though the land was filled with sin against Thee. O cut us not off in our iniquity. O bring not against us an enemy, mightier through Thy might than ourselves, nor allow us to see such a day of Thy vengeance as will render to us a recompense according to our deeds. Make the spirit of repentance and of amendment to go through the land in its length and in its breadth. And do Thou grant, O mighty God, that, under the influence of a heavenly principle, we may be able to attain to such a national profession of the gospel of Thy Son as will draw down on us many national blessings. Forgive our national ingratitude. Give efficacy to the ministrations and instructions of our Zion. Make the ministers of the sanctuary to be wise and faithful in expounding the gospel and enforcing its duties on the consciences of men; and may the schools and seminaries

of learning, breathing themselves the spirit of religion, train up generation after generation in all useful knowledge, and teach them to unite the best wisdom—the fear and the love of Thee, with their other attainments. Enable us to reform our institutions, wherever they are amiss, in the spirit of the gospel. And grant, O Thou who alone art the Source of holiness, and puttest wisdom in the inward parts, that the law of the land may be refined into a greater resemblance of the law of Christ, and the lives of the inhabitants adorned with a brighter assemblage of Christian graces.

(8.) *For the Sovereign.*

I pray, O King of kings, for the Sovereign whom Thou hast set over us. Give her long life and a happy reign, and make her glad with a sense of Thy countenance, and the prospect of an eternal crown. Clothe her enemies with shame; keep afar from her counsels all them that are afar from Thee by wicked works; and grant that while, for the good of the people, she upholds the authority of the law of the land, she may herself be subject to the holier law of Christ.

(9.) *For the Royal Family.*

I pray for the Prince and Princess of Wales, and for all the members and relatives of the Royal Family. Unto all their worldly honours and glories add Thou the brighter glory of being faithful Christians. Let the praise of their goodness be throughout all the Churches; and after they have turned many to righteousness through the influence

of their example, may they at length partake of their Redeemer's glory, and shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

(10.) *For all in Authority.*

I pray for the Parliament, the Judges, and the Magistrates of the land. O give them wisdom in giving them the fear of Thyself, so that they may understand righteousness and judgment and equity, and the righteous may be justified and the wicked may be condemned, and violence and spoil and unrighteous dealings removed out of the land. Be Thou for a Spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and direct him to judge righteously between man and man, without respecting the person of the poor, or honouring the person of the mighty.

(11.) *For Quiet and the love of Order.*

I pray that Thou wouldst uphold the love of order and of the laws among us, and that Thou wouldst enable us, while we profess to fear Thee, to honour the Sovereign also, and to render unto the civil authorities the things that are theirs. Make every soul to be subject unto the higher powers for the sake of conscience, and to remember that they are ordained of Thee for the peace of the world and for the protection of the Church of Christ. Do Thou, who art the Author, not of confusion, but of peace, as in all the Churches of the saints, enable us to repress envy, the source of confusion and of every evil work, and to eschew the fellowship of the presumptuous and self-willed, who despise government and speak evil of dignities.

(12.) *For the Army and Navy.*

I beseech Thee in behalf of our Army and our Navy; and I pray that the measures which are adopted for the defence of the country, and the maintenance of our independence and prosperity among the nations may be blessed of Thee. Lord God of Hosts, be pleased to go forth with our fleets and our armies in the day of battle, and to maintain the cause of our country against the invasion or the aggression of foes. Knowing that if Thou be on our side, no craft, or device, or power is able to prevail against us, I implore Thy mighty aid in behalf of my countrymen. I entreat Thee to uphold the strength of their arms and the courage of their hearts, to teach their hands the use of the weapons of war against the enemy, to cover their heads in the hour of danger, and to grant them the victory for the glory and protection of their country. And do Thou grant also, O Thou Dispenser of the joys of heaven, that while they jeopard their lives in defence of an earthly kingdom, they may so war against the lusts of the flesh as to rescue their souls from the thraldom of Satan, and to obtain the crown of glory in the kingdom of heaven.

(13.) *For the Public Prosperity and Health.*

I pray that Thou wouldst send down prosperity on all classes and professions of men, that Thou wouldst bless us in our merchandise and in our husbandry, and give us peace and plenty and health, and further the improvement of the arts, and open up the various stores of science and of comfort unto man. Make the year to revolve through

her several seasons with favourable weather, and bring forth her fruits abundantly, that the longing soul may be satisfied with bread. Heal our diseases, and ward off the noisome pestilence which walketh in darkness afar from our borders. Keep us free from the slaughter and calamities of war, nor allow us to see the desolating times wherein, when Thou scourgest a guilty land, the highways are untrodden, and the travellers walk through byeways, and the inhabitants of the villages cease.

(14.) *For the Petitioner's Neighbourhood.*

I pray in a special manner for this part of the land, that, from the beginning to the end of the year, Thine eyes and tender mercies may be always upon it, that Thou mayest bless our bread and our water, and put away sickness from the midst of us, and enable us to rejoice with thankfulness in every good thing which Thou, the Lord our God, givest unto us, and our houses, and our neighbourhood.

(15.) *For Kindred.*

I pray in a special manner for all those who are my brethren according to the flesh, and beseech Thee to bless them, and to make them blessings unto one another in the various relations of parent and child, husband and wife, brother and sister, and other kindred. What they are by nature unto one another, that may they become through grace unto Christ also, even His brethren and kindred. May they do the will of Thee, their heavenly Father, and show their mutual love in promoting, by every laudable means, the temporal and eternal interests of one another.

(16.) *For Friends and Benefactors.*

Unto the friends and benefactors whom Thou hast raised up to do me good, and to gladden me with their society and converse, do Thou render a manifold recompense in the course of Thy providence, and visit them in the day of their need with Thy powerful aids.

(17.) *For Neighbours.*

Let them, O God, with whom I am connected in neighbourhood, or in the business of life, live near unto Thee also in the duties and exercises of religion. Give us to live at peace among ourselves, to show mutual candour and honesty and truth, to bear and to forbear, and to cultivate the charity which envieth not, which thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity.

(18.) *For the Prevalence of Peace and Good-will.*

I acknowledge with shame the grudgings and enmities and heart-burnings which prevail in the world. As Thou wishest to be reconciled unto sinners, so do Thou, O merciful God, make sinners willing to be reconciled to one another, to bless them that curse, and to requite evil with good. Forgive Thou them who hate and injure me without a cause. Keep me from being insolent in conduct or in language unto others. Put away all hatred from among us, save the hatred of sin. And if Thou permittest me to suffer under the hatred and ill offices of the world, do Thou enable me to receive them cheerfully as a part of the discipline with which Thou preparest Thy people for a better life.

(19.) *For the Rich.*

Unto whomsoever Thou hast given an abundance of the things of this world, do Thou give also a generous heart and an open hand. Keep them from imagining that what they have freely received is the reward of their own merit, or the necessary result of their own skilful designs. Remind them of the wants of their brethren and of the uncertainty of their own riches. Enable them betimes to make a Friend of Thee by means of the deceitful mammon before it passes away from them for ever. And let the triumphs of Thy grace appear in overcoming the difficulties through which they that have riches enter the kingdom of heaven.

(20.) *For the Poor.*

Unto the poor do Thou give the spirit of contentment and the relief of their necessities. Teach them to prefer the fruits of honest industry to the alms of men. And grant them to be rich in the hopes and assurances of the gospel, and to beware of losing a greater portion in the other world through the abuse of the little which they have on earth.

(21.) *For the Young.*

I pray for the young. Lord, teach them to suppress every rising thought that is hateful unto Thee, to quell the first motions of sin, and from the beginning of life to keep up the remembrance of their Creator fresh in their minds. Make them sensible of the power of early habit either for good or for evil. Enable them to form all their likings and desires and friendships in favour of what is good. Imprint upon their memories a sense of the bondage and

misery which the sins of youth entail upon the life of man. And do Thou mercifully grant that, eschewing what is evil and cleaving to what is good, they may so walk in the way of wisdom when they are young as not to depart from it if Thou shalt allow them to be old. O save them from the delusions and temptations of the world. Remove every evil principle before it has taken root in their hearts. Expel every unworthy sentiment, every loose desire and unholy passion, before it gather strength and take possession of the imagination, and enslave the whole man.

(22.) *For the Old.*

I pray for the old, and for all them whose days are at length drawing to an end. O Thou, who out of Thy goodness hast borne with them so long and given them so many favours, do not abandon them in the days of their decline. Make the evening of their days to be comfortable to them with Thy heavenly joys. In the midst of their bodily pains let their spiritual consolations abound. And where the weak hand and the feeble knee unfit them for toil, do Thou still enable them to lift up their voice and testimony in behalf of Jesus, and to feed their families with the bread of life. If they have themselves been neglectful of Thee in their former lives, O grant that they may now the more diligently redeem what yet remains of their time from sin and folly, and dedicate it unto Thee. Let the voice of the Holy Ghost be now heard by them with effect, 'To-day harden not your hearts.' And may they feel that there is yet to them a time of acceptance and a day of salvation.

(23.) *For all in Trouble.*

I pray for all them who suffer under any special trouble, or calamity, or distress. O assist them to be patient while Thou makest them to suffer; send them deliverance when the purpose for which the affliction is laid upon them has been fulfilled; and thenceforward enable them to feel in the growing heavenliness of their minds that it was good for them to be afflicted.

(24.) *For the Humble.*

Them who humble themselves under Thy mighty hand, and search and try their ways and turn unto Thee, do Thou exalt in due season.

(25.) *For those mourning the desertion of the Spirit.*

Unto them who are troubled in their minds and mourn the desertion of Thy Spirit, do Thou, who art the Lord of peace, give peace in all manner of ways, and such a sense of Thy presence as will carry them with cheerfulness through the duties of life.

(26.) *For the Tempted.*

Unto them who are assaulted with temptation, do Thou, who knowest how to deliver the godly out of temptations, give the whole armour of the gospel—the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. And grant that, overcoming the world and treading Satan under their feet, they may be enabled to take up the language of triumph: 'Behold,

God is my salvation: I will trust and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song.'

(27.) *For the Unfortunate.*

Unto them whom Thou hast straitened with difficulties, and made their beauty to fade away in the failure of friends or honours or worldly means, do Thou yet open Thy good treasure, and bless the work of their hands, and enable them to do honour unto Thee in the use of their substance.

(28.) *For the Sick.*

Them whom Thou chastenest with pain upon their beds, do Thou still bring forth, if it be Thy holy will, to walk before Thee and to see Thy goodness in the land of the living. And when Thou deliverest them out of the hands of death, do Thou deliver them also out of the bondage of sin, and make their souls to be in health.

(29.) *For the Dying.*

Especially let Thy favour be with them, who, bidding adieu to these earthly scenes, go thither whence they will not return, even to the land of darkness and of the shadow of death. When their hearts are faint and their eyes are dim, be Thou the strength of their hearts. Refresh their souls with Thy holy consolations; and make darkness to be light before them. Disperse the terrors, the anguish, the care, and despondency which beset their way. And grant, O Thou, besides whom they no longer desire anything either in heaven or on earth, that their earthly pilgrimage

may issue in heavenly glory, and they themselves become citizens of an eternal city, the Jerusalem which is above.

(30.) *For an Eternal Home in Heaven.*

And, O merciful God, when cometh the time of my own departure, and I must needs retire from the society of my earthly friends, do Thou admit me into the holy society of heaven, and give my soul a place among the spirits of the just men, who, having run their earthly race and finished their course with joy, are now perfect in the heavens.

And now, O mighty and holy God, Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, these my humble prayers and supplications, in behalf both of my fellow-creatures and of myself, I implore Thee to hear and to accept for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast constituted Mediator between Thyself and sinful creatures. And unto Him, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory ascribed both now and evermore. Amen.

58. PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

UNTO Thee, '*Our Father who art in heaven,*' I desire to approach as with the affection of a child. And while I confess that I have most undutifully strayed from Thee and wandered amidst the sins and vanities of the world, I pray that Thou wouldst still receive me into favour and enrol my name amongst the family of heaven. O may Christ, my kinsman and elder brother, my Lord

and my God, be my Surety and my Intercessor. And through His powerful advocacy, let me be securely established as a member of Thy great household, and acknowledged as an heir of the heavenly inheritance—an heir, O God, of Thee, the common Father of all Thy people, yea, a joint-heir along with Jesus Christ, my kinsman and brother according to the flesh. Enable me, through this adoption, to escape more and more from the bondage and fear of a slave, and to attain to the freedom and access of a child. And do Thou grant that the Holy Spirit, working mightily both in my heart and in my life, may testify along with the filial dispositions of my own heart, that I am indeed adopted into Thy heavenly family, and associated in privileges with the children of God.

Thou wast pleased, O heavenly Father, to reveal Thyself to Thy patriarchs and saints and people in old time under the name of Jehovah. And still, both now and evermore, '*Hallowed be Thy name*'—Thy great and glorious name. And according to the greatness and glory of Thy name, so let Thy praise be even unto the ends of the earth. Throughout all the earth let the voice of the worshipper proclaim: 'How excellent is Thy name, O Jehovah, our Lord! Ascribe unto Jehovah, O ye kindreds of men, ascribe unto Jehovah the glory which is due unto His name.' And, O Jehovah, my God, hallow Thou my own soul for Thy service. Be Thou my strength and my song; and for the sake of Thy great and holy name, lead Thou me in the paths of righteousness, and revive me in the time of trouble.

Thou, O God, art Lord of lords and King of kings.

O may '*Thy kingdom come*' in its spiritual influences unto all the kindreds of the earth, and establish the authority of the gospel in every kingdom of man. From Thy high and holy throne look down, I pray Thee, O merciful God, upon the dark places of the earth, and remove cruelty and superstition from the habitations of men. Say unto Thy Son, 'Rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies,' and let the times of which the prophets speak be revealed, when all the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of the Messiah, and every knee will bow down before Him in homage, and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

I rejoice in the revelation which Thou, O God, hast given of Thy holy will in the gospel of Jesus. And I pray that my natural light, which is but darkness, may be enlightened by Him who is the true light of men, that '*Thy will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven;*' and that, as the angels, Thy glorious hosts above, hearken to the voice of Thy word and do Thy pleasure, so may Thy feeble creatures below be enabled, through heavenly grace, to show more zeal both in the learning and in the doing of all that Thou requirest at their hands. I acknowledge Christ for my teacher, and to Him I go for the words of eternal life. O give me a clearer knowledge of His gospel, and make me more faithful and earnest in His service. And let His doctrine be mighty in pulling down the strongholds of sin within me, and in bringing every rebellious thought into dutiful obedience. Whatever Thou willest concerning me, enable me to say in the words of Jesus: '*Not my will but Thine be done.*' And as I have

often received Thy favours without acknowledgment, and broken Thy laws without shame or sorrow, so, if Thou shouldst render evil for evil, may I receive Thy rebukes with patience, and strive more assiduously to bring my will into a greater conformity with Thine.

Almighty God, with Thee is the fountain of life. Thou givest food to all flesh and preservest man and beast. I pray that Thou wouldst '*Give me day by day my daily bread.*' O Thou great Shepherd, who leadest Thy people like a flock, and makest them to lie down in green pastures, prepare a table for me while I pass through this earthly wilderness. And do Thou so enable me to serve Thee, my heavenly Master, that Thou mayest bless my bread and my water, and take away sickness from me. Thou knowest of what things I stand in need. O keep me from being inordinately anxious for the morrow. Make me diligent in all that Thou givest me to do, and content with the state wherein, by Thy providence, I am appointed to be. And do Thou enable me in faith and hope to cast my case upon Thee, who feedest the fowls of the air, though they neither sow nor reap. Instead of longing to eat the dainties and deceitful food of luxurious livers, and to fare sumptuously every day, I pray that Thou wouldst daily give me more and more of the heavenly bread which nourishes the soul for an eternal world; and that whatever good things I receive in my lifetime here, I may be admitted to partake of a more abundant joy in Thy presence on high.

Though Thou hast given us a law, and written it on the table of our hearts, and more especially in the records

of holy writ; yea, though Thou hast fenced it with the denunciations of conscience, and threatened the transgressors with indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, both now and hereafter, by the mouth of the holy prophets, yet have we contemned Thine authority and broken Thy commandments, and shown that we are enemies both to Thee and to one another in our earthly minds and wicked works. For the sake of Christ, O blot out all our iniquities, '*And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*,' and are desirous of being forgiven by them. I confess that I have been an unfaithful steward of what Thou hast committed to my trust; and that I deserve nothing but condemnation and punishment, when Thou callest me to an account. I acknowledge that of myself I cannot make atonement for a single transgression out of the many thousands that I have committed against Thee. I have a fleshly mind, and am by nature a child of wrath, as are all others. Out of my evil heart proceed evil thoughts, evil words, and evil deeds; yea, everything that makes men hateful to Thee and hateful to one another. O make this enmity, the fruit of the carnal mind, to cease. Reconcile me to Thyself through the death of the fleshly body of Thy Son. And be pleased to give me a token of salvation and acceptance with Thee, in reconciling me to my fellow-sinners, wherever offences occur, or any man has aught against me. Give me so to feel the weight of my guilt as to be thoroughly penitent towards Thee, and just and candid and placable towards my fellow-creatures. And enable us to testify, in our mutual love, that we indeed truly love our common Master, the Lord

Jesus Christ, and have fellowship through Him with Thee.

We, Almighty God, are afar from Thee; wanderers in the wilderness of this world; pilgrims, whose path is through innumerable difficulties and dangers, which of ourselves we can neither foresee, nor avoid, nor overcome. O do Thou direct our steps aright, '*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*,'—especially from the evil of sin, from Satan and all his wiles and snares, from the deceitfulness of an evil heart, from the influence of evil companions, and the scourge of evil tongues. O make me to be watchful and sober, to walk circumspectly, to keep my heart with all diligence, to withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly, and to turn neither to the right hand nor to the left out of the way in which Thou requirest me to walk. Let neither the cares of this world, nor the deceitfulness of riches, nor the lusts of other things, choke the word of the gospel within me, and make me unfruitful. Whatever trials or afflictions meet me, O grant me to persevere in the path of duty, to pray more earnestly for an increase of faith and strength, to beware of choosing iniquity rather than afflictions, and cheerfully to accept of Thy chastisement, in the hope of being partaker of Thy holiness and glory. And when at last I go down to the mansions of the dead, let Thy Spirit dispel the terrors of death. Let the blood of Christ, which cleanseth from all sin, speak peace to my penitent soul. And be Thou pleased, of Thy great mercy, to give me another life—the life which is through Jesus Christ—with Thyself in heaven.

For with Thee, Almighty God, is the fountain of life. And to Thee belongs the homage of every creature. Let all that hath life—angels and men, the hosts of heaven and the nations of the earth, bless Thee and proclaim Thy praise, and magnify Thy holy name, O Jehovah; '*For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.*'

59. PRAYER REFERRING TO BAPTISM.

LORD God Almighty, who wast, and art, and wilt ever be, Thou alone art holy—holy in all Thy attributes, holy in all Thy works, and holy in all Thy ways. Evil cannot dwell with Thee. Thou art of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity, save with detestation and abhorrence. Yet hadst Thou compassion on unholy creatures, and sentest Thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ into the world, to redeem sinners from the dominion of sin and wash away the stains of their guilt.

With amazement, Almighty Father, do I contemplate the ransom which He paid for their redemption, even the bloody sacrifice which He offered up on the cross, —the sacrifice of Himself,—to expiate their guilt, and to purify a peculiar people unto Himself—a holy people, zealous of good works. I bless Thee that Thou hast given me the knowledge of this most merciful dispensation in the Holy Scriptures, and that, from time to time, it is exhibited before the eyes of Thy worshipping people in the ritual ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

I desire at this time specially to acknowledge that I was devoted unto Thee in baptism, and that over me was spoken the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and a symbolical representation given of what is needed for the cleansing of my soul.

With sorrow and shame I confess that I have grievously failed in fulfilling the purpose of the holy ordinance, and that my life has not corresponded with the words and professions, the holiness and the purity, which the ordinance sets before us. Forgive, O merciful God, my manifold transgression, my forgetfulness of the high calling of Christ, my neglect both of religious ordinances and of the graces which are the proper ornament of the Christian.

As I have been baptized unto Christ, so do Thou enable me, O Mighty God, to put on Christ, and to manifest the life of Christ more and more in my own life, through a growing liveliness of my faith and love. Let the material baptism of water be completed and fulfilled by the spiritual baptism which cometh from Thee. And do Thou grant that, through this baptism and under the influence of a constant fear of Thee, I may be enabled more and more to cleanse myself from all filthiness both of the flesh and of the spirit, and to attain to greater degrees of holiness and of Christian excellence. May the great mystery of redemption—a mystery which Thou hast revealed unto man for the honouring of Thy law and the restoring of the original holiness of the soul—make me to see the beauty of holiness more and more, and to remember that without holiness no man shall

see Thee. And when I read Thy word—the Holy Scriptures—may I read with meekness and humility and the desire of spiritual improvement, and be sanctified thereby in the whole man, and be constrained to put away all unholiness and maliciousness and pride, and the manifold corruption of the human heart.

Again, Almighty God, I remember my own baptism before Thee; and I pray that what it symbolized may be accomplished, in the outpouring of Thy heavenly grace upon my soul, and the regenerating of my fallen nature, through another, a spiritual birth, into the life of holiness in this world, and into eternal life in the next. As long as I continue to live among my fellow-creatures here, O grant me to rejoice daily in the use of religious exercises, and to feel that I am indeed growing in meetness for a better world. And when at last I pass from the ordinances and sacraments of the Church on earth, O receive me into the Church in heaven, and give my soul a place among the multitudes who, rejoicing that they have been redeemed and sanctified by the blood of Christ out of a sinful world, sing the heavenly song in praise of redemption: '*Hallelujah! worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive glory and honour and power; for He was slain for us, and has redeemed us unto God with His blood!*'

And now, O Father, unto Thee, of whom are all things, and unto Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and unto the Holy Ghost, in whom through Christ there is access unto the Father, be all glory ascribed, both now and evermore. Amen.

60. PRAYER REFERRING TO THE COMMUNION.

O ALMIGHTY God, Giver and Upholder of my life, I bless Thee for calling me into Thy world of living and intelligent creatures, for supplying my manifold wants day by day, and for preserving me alive during so long a period of time. Especially I desire to thank Thee for allowing me to entertain the hope of another, an eternal life, when this present, this temporal life cometh to an end. I rejoice to know, that though the original sentence, '*Dust thou art, and to dust shalt thou return*,' will ere long be executed against me, and bring my body back again into dust in the mansions of death, there is another food, a heavenly bread, which cometh down from Thee for the nourishment and welfare of the soul. I bless Thee for Thy Son Jesus Christ, through whom Thou hast made provision for the redemption of the soul, and taught me to labour not merely for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth to everlasting life, even for the food which Christ giveth unto His people—the gracious influences of His Spirit. I extol the unspeakable mercy of the dispensation which Christ administers for the rescuing of sinners from the dominion and punishment of sin. I adore and magnify Thy holy name, that the Son of God, assuming the flesh and blood of this lower world, made expiation in behalf of His sinful people on the Cross, and triumphed over the powers of sin in the regions of death, and rose again from the dead, and

ascended up into heaven, and thence imparts strength and consolation to the souls of men. I rejoice that His holy sacrifice, His broken body and His outpoured blood, are, agreeably to His appointment, still emblematically exhibited before our eyes, and that the bread and wine of His holy Supper are expressive also of a nobler refreshment than is needed for our bodies, even of the heavenly grace which, for the sake of Jesus, is sent down to refresh our souls.

O gracious God, enable me so to remember Christ in the ordinance of His holy Supper, as to see in the Cross of Calvary the dire malignity of sin, and the inconceivable affection of Him who, for the remission of sin, gave Himself up unto death. O make me to examine myself daily on the state of my spiritual attainments. And O grant that my self-examination may so promote the growth of my faith and love, of my knowledge and obedience, that, when I sit down at the Lord's table, I may eat and drink worthily, and be owned as an acceptable guest, and receive the spiritual nourishment which the material food represents.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. O make me ever to rejoice in keeping the feast, and representing His sacrifice anew. The Lamb of God taketh away the sin of the world; and worthy is the Lamb to receive power and honour and glory; for He was slain to redeem us unto Thee with His blood.

Almighty God, I pray that I may be Thine—one of those whom Christ redeems unto Thee; and that, as often as I eat His bread and drink His cup, I may both show

forth His death among my brethren, and feel its power in my own soul. O grant that the bread and wine, over which the words of blessing and thanksgiving are spoken at the holy table, may be made unto me the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and the participation of the benefits which flow from His death. Give me so to discern the body and crucifixion of Jesus in the symbols and actions of His holy ordinance, that I may be constraind to live conformably to the purposes of His death, and to crucify those evil affections and lusts which were the cause of such sufferings and sorrows unto Him. Let the example of those Corinthians who, coming to a communion as to a heathen revelry, and thus eating and drinking unworthily, ate and drank judgment to themselves, warn me against forgetting to prepare myself for the ordinance, and presuming to come forward to the Lord's table in a light or irreverent manner. Enable me so to judge myself, and so to prepare for my communions under the direction of Thy holy word, that I may be allowed to have fellowship with Thee through the Eternal Spirit, and to obtain more knowledge and ampler supplies of grace for the ornament of my Christian profession.

And, gracious God, whatever chastisement awaits me on account of my manifold transgressions, I pray that it may be mercifully administered to me here, and that I may so sincerely acknowledge Christ in the regulating of my life, as not to be condemned hereafter with them who, pouring contempt upon the Cross, and denying the obligation of the holy precepts of the gospel, crucify the Son of God afresh. And when my earthly pilgrimage expires,

and I lie down to die, do Thou hear my supplication and my cry, and remember me with the love which Thou bearest to Thine own, and take me through the valley of the shadow of death into Thy heavenly kingdom, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, when He hung upon the Cross, accepted the prayer of a fellow-sufferer, and promised him a place in Paradise along with Himself on that very day of unutterable earthly woe. Amen.

61. ANOTHER PRAYER REFERRING TO THE COMMUNION.

O HEAVENLY Father, Giver and Sustainer of my life, my reason, my comfort, and all that I possess, I again come into Thy presence, to acknowledge my filial obligations, to confess my undutiful behaviour in time past, and to implore the forgiveness of my sins, and the continuance of Thy favour. I thank Thee for all the means of knowledge and of spiritual improvement that I enjoy. I bless Thy holy name that, instead of living in a heathen land, amid idolatrous and cruel rites, I live in a Christian land, where the light of the gospel shines around me, and I am taught to sanctify a Sabbath for the welfare both of my soul and of my body. I render my most thankful acknowledgments unto Thee for the possession of the Holy Scriptures; for the worship and for the instructions of the sanctuary; and for all the ordinances and institutions by which the truths of the gospel are called up to my remembrance and urged upon my conscience,

for the enlivening of my faith and the purifying of my life. I thank Thee, O Father, that sinners coming unto Thee in faith have access through the atonement of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost. I rejoice that, in execution of Thy merciful intentions, Christ came into the world to save sinners by the sacrifice of Himself; and that, through His word and Spirit, He now administers the affairs of His spiritual kingdom, for purifying a peculiar people unto Himself, and preparing them to partake of His glory.

I adore the wisdom and condescension of Christ in the instituting of ritual ordinances—Baptism and the Lord's Supper—to set the doctrines of His gospel before the imaginations of His people in a lively manner, by means of palpable signs and emblematical actions. Grant, I beseech Thee, that the administration of baptism may, under Thy heavenly blessing, be a powerful means of washing Thy people from the defilements of sin, and of infusing holiness into their souls. Do Thou so bless the administration of the holy Supper, that Thy people may not only historically commemorate the crucifying of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood, but may also partake of a heavenly bread and a living water, even of heavenly grace, for the strengthening of the inner man, and the nourishing of the soul unto eternal life.

Forbid, O merciful Father, that while I remember the death of Christ in the holy ordinance of His Supper, I should forget the doing of His will in the world. May the holy affections which I profess to cherish when I partake of the communion along with my fellow-Christians,

dwell permanently in my heart, and manifest their power in constraining me to love others, for the sake of Him who so loved us all as to die in our stead. As I celebrate His death at His table, so may I strive more earnestly, in His strength, to imitate His life and to adorn His doctrine, in all the intercourse of society and business of the world. O grant that His propitiatory death, whether it be brought before me in His holy Supper, or in the ordinary ministrations of religion, may ever animate me afresh in the work of crucifying the flesh with its evil affections and lusts, and of living unto righteousness and unto Thee. And may Christ, who, though once He condescended to die for sinners, now liveth again for evermore, so dwell in me by His Spirit, that whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, I may do all to Thy glory, and grow stedfastly in the hope of living with Him hereafter, beyond the reach of sin and of death. And now unto Thee, through Him, be all glory and honour and blessing ascribed; and unto me, for His sake, be all my transgressions forgiven, and a place assigned hereafter in the house of many mansions, which He is preparing for His people on high. Amen.

62. PRAYER IN SICKNESS.

O ALMIGHTY God, I acknowledge Thy hand in all the changes and distresses with which I am visited. Thou gavest me a place among Thy intelligent creatures when Thou broughtest me into the world of life; and now

Thou sendest sickness to remind me of my mortality and my departure, and of the punishment which the sinner deserves at the hand of his Creator. Thy gifts—Thy many gifts—my life, my health, my worldly means, and all my joy, I have received without expressing a suitable gratitude to the Giver; and now does sickness constrain me to open mine eyes and to see the value of the gifts, and to confess that the sin of the soul is the evil thing which brings pain and distress and death upon the body.

Health and sickness, joy and sorrow, life and death, go and come at Thy bidding. Out of Thy mouth, O Thou Most High God, proceedeth the command for the dispensing both of good and of evil. Who will say that anything, how much soever it may be longed for, shall come to pass if Thou commandest it not? Behold, Thou takest away; and who can hinder Thee, whether Thou take away bodily health, or any other earthly comfort? And why should a living man complain?—a man for the punishment of his sins?—a man who, notwithstanding his sins, is still borne with by Thee, and allowed to live? O grant me, gracious God, to profit by my pains and ailments, and to search and try my ways, and to turn from my sins unto righteousness and unto Thee. While Thou chastisest me with bodily afflictions, do Thou make the chastisement conducive to my spiritual improvement. Enable me to feel in my own comfortable experience, that by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better, and that the weakening of the faculties of the body is, through Thy blessing, a mean of strengthening the graces of the soul. And do Thou grant that, while I behold the sin of the

soul in the pains of my body, I may hate and eschew evil as the destroyer both of soul and body, and may strive to obtain the inward peace which flows not from bodily enjoyments, but from the keeping of Thy commandments and the doing of Thy holy will.

O Thou, who art Jehovah, the eternal and unchangeable God, I pray that, if it be agreeable to Thy holy will, Thou wouldst rebuke my sickness and make it to depart from me. And do Thou grant that I may live, and that it may be well with me, and that I may still be allowed to prolong my days in the land of the living for the good of my immortal soul. And while the sickness continues, do Thou enable me to go through it without a murmur, and to come out of it with an increase of faith and love, like gold that cometh forth, purified and refined, from the fire of the furnace. And when at last my end approaches, and my flesh and my heart fail, and Thou commandest me to go from the bed of sickness and to lie down and mingle with the dust of the earth, be Thou graciously pleased to redeem my soul from the power of the grave, so that, when I am absent from the body, I may be present with my Lord in heaven. And in His name I now offer up my prayers; and for His sake I again implore the forgiveness of my sin, and the redemption of my soul, and the gift of that inexpressible, that eternal weight of glory, which the light affliction of this life worketh out for Thy people in heaven. Amen.

63. PRAYER ON RECOVERY.

O MERCIFUL God, Giver and Sustainer of my life, I thank Thee for watching over me in the season of sickness, and protecting me from the assault of death. Blessed be Thy holy name that I still enjoy a place in the world of life, and am allowed to give Thee praise for putting away my illness, and adding to the number of my days in the land of the living. Thou bringest down to the grave and Thou bringest up again. Thou hast sustained me on the bed of sickness and languor, and brought me forth again to the enjoyment of health and life. Health and strength, safety and salvation, both spiritual and temporal, come from Thee. O Jehovah, Thou art my salvation; Thou art my strength and my song; and on Thee do I trust, for Thou art mighty to save.

O Thou who forgivest the iniquities of Thy people, and healest their diseases, and redeemest their lives from destruction, be Thou graciously pleased to stablish my health yet more and more, to keep me safe from the infection of disease, to ward off the ravages of death far from my abode, and to uphold such strength, both of body and mind, as is needful for the discharge of my duties in the world.

Gracious God, forbid that the remembrance of my sickness should pass away with the return of health. Forbid that the thoughts of mortality and the aspirations after holiness and eternal life should be forgotten in the pleasures of the world. Forbid that my guilt should be aggra-

vated, and the sorrows of my latter end be increased, by my disregard of the bodily chastisement through which Thou seekest to promote the welfare of my soul.

Do Thou grant, O eternal and unchangeable God, that henceforward I may so mingle in the affairs of this world as becomes an ignorant and sinful creature, who knows not what a day may bring forth, either of good or of evil, of strength or of weakness. Whether weakness and decay and death shall come upon me sooner or later, I pray that I may grow daily stronger in the inner man, and exhibit the graces of the Christian character in greater abundance. Do Thou grant that my life, whether it be a life of greater or of less corporeal strength, may be the life of faith in the Son of God—the life which draws its nourishment from the Holy Scriptures; yea, that Christ may live in me, and quicken my dead soul into a livelier sense of gratitude, and enlighten my dark understanding with a clearer knowledge of heavenly things, and put a more abundant joy into my heart, in enabling me to profess and obey the gospel with a greater earnestness and fidelity.

Almighty Creator, Thou gavest me life at first. Be pleased to give me still what is needful for the sustentation of my life and the upholding of my strength. Mercifully spread a table for me still, and enable me to partake of it with sobriety and thankfulness. Abundantly bless my provision, and make me strong for the doing of whatsoever work yet awaits me here. Whithersoever I go, do Thou keep me, and give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, and grace to direct my steps. Whatever plenty Thy goodness bestows, O make me to beware of excess,

and to think not merely of gratifying the appetite, but also of seeking the bread which cometh down from heaven for the nourishment of the soul. Enable me so to use the world as not to abuse it. When Thou preparest a table for me, allow me not to partake of the gift without lifting up my heart to the Giver. And in the midst of my enjoyment, do Thou make me to remember that no food will uphold my life, unless it be accompanied by Thy divine blessing and the dispensations of a merciful providence. And do Thou, O Jehovah, whose glories and years never fail, bestow on me at last an everlasting life in heaven, beyond the reach of sickness and pain, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ: unto whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all glory ascribed, now and evermore. Amen.

64. PRAYER WHEN A DEATH HAS OCCURRED.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou livest and reignest for ever. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; and all things, whether they be in heaven or on earth, visible or invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers, acknowledge Thy sovereignty, and obey Thy will. Thou art Lord of lords and King of kings, able to save and to destroy. I behold Thy hand, and I confess Thy power, in the giving of our lives, and in the taking of them away. Thou hast determined the days of man, and appointed his bounds,—bounds which he cannot pass. There is a time to be born, and a time to die.

What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Whatever may be his health and strength, Thou wilt bring him to death and to the grave, the house which is appointed for all living; and in the grave he will see corruption, and turn again unto dust.

Almighty God, Thou again remindest me of my mortality, in the death which has now occurred among us. I acknowledge that death entered into the world through sin; and when lamentation and woe come into our dwellings through death, I feel my wretchedness, and call my sins to remembrance.

How closely soever we may be united unto one another by the bonds of kindred or of friendship, death, at Thy command, makes a separation; and they who are left behind, mourn for them who go away. Often they who are dearest to us—they who are the desire of our eyes, and the comfort of our lives—are taken away from us with a sudden stroke; and we grudge them to the grave, as if they had been ours in perpetual possession. Thy sentence, O mighty God, is gone forth against us all: 'Return, ye children of men, to the dust;' and all of us, every one in his own time, go down to the grave, and return to our houses no more. In Thee we live and move and have our being; and when the support of Thy mighty Spirit is withdrawn, we waste away, our strength becomes weakness, and our beauty consumes in the grave.

Almighty God, keep me in mind of the grave, and of that which lies beyond the grave—Thy dread tribunal and an eternal world. O make me to prepare betimes

for the way which I shall not return—the way which leadeth down from the land of the living to the mansions of the dead.

May the weakness and languor both of body and mind, the pains and diseases and deaths which I behold in my fellow-creatures, keep me from forgetting that I bear about with me in my body the principle of decay, and know not how soon its fatal operation may be felt within me in the enfeebling of all my powers, and manifested to the eyes of others in the sickliness of the outward man. Let the wearisome nights, and the long train of sufferings, which often intervene between the first assault of disease and the stroke of death in the surrounding world, induce me so to spend the period of health in the doing of whatsoever duties Thou appointest unto me, that the evil days, come when they may upon me, may not take me by surprise. O make me, whether Thou assignest to me a greater or a smaller number of years, to acknowledge with the patriarch that there is but a step between me and death, and that to bring down the strongest from the glow and beauty of health to the agonies of death, a moment is sufficient, if Thou but speak the word: 'Let the body return unto dust, as it was, and the spirit to God, who gave it.'

O help me, during all the time of my earthly pilgrimage, to think of the heavenly home of the Christian, and to fix my affections upon the glories and holiness of heaven, and the rest which remaineth for Thy people among the angels in an everlasting Sabbath. While Thou still allowest me to live, O keep me from wasting my life in

ambitious schemes or covetous desires, in sensual or malignant passions, in anger, or hatred, or envy, or drunkenness, or gluttony, instead of giving my heart to Thee and the precepts of Thy holy law. And if Thou shalt permit me to see old age, I pray that the lengthening of my life may be accompanied with an increase of spiritual strength, and a livelier manifestation of the Christian graces; and that every day, as it comes from Thee, may be received, as if it were the last, a messenger calling me hence into the presence of my Judge. Especially do I pray, that whatsoever pains or afflictions or troubles are still between me and the grave, Thou wouldst enable me to undergo them with the patience becoming a Christian; that, for the sake of Christ, Thou wouldst forgive my sins, and grant me a sense of Thy forgiveness; and that, through Him, Thou wouldst give me the victory over death and the grave, a name and a place, glory, honour, and immortality, in His heavenly kingdom.

And now unto Thee, O Father, the Fountain of life, and unto Jesus Christ, the Conqueror of death, and unto the Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier, Comforter, and Renewer of our dead souls, be glory ascribed, both in time and through eternity, both now and evermore. Amen.

65. PRAYER OF A YOUNG PERSON.

ALMIGHTY Creator, Giver of all life and strength and happiness, I bless Thee for calling me into existence, and giving me a place in Thy mighty world. I rejoice

before Thee in all the powers and faculties which Thou hast bestowed upon me, both of soul and of body. And I pray, that while I live, I may be enlightened in the knowledge of my duty, and strengthened to perform it agreeably to Thy holy will. In whatever path of life I am appointed to walk, and whatever success or disappointment, comforts or sorrows, are before me, do Thou lead and protect me, and enable me, through Thy heavenly aids, to go onwards without turning to the right hand or to the left.

Of myself I am weak and ignorant and fallible, utterly worthless in Thy sight, and unable to do what is pleasing unto Thee. I mourn before Thee my many failures and deficiencies and backslidings. The good which I would, I do not; and the evil which I would not, that I do. O gracious God, have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Jesus, even of Him who was manifested upon earth to take away the sins of His people, do Thou forgive my many transgressions of Thy holy law, and deliver me from the dominion of those evil thoughts and affections which enslave the inner man, and break forth in unholy conduct. O let not iniquity be my ruin. O let not the grace of the gospel be proclaimed in my ears in vain. As repentance and remission of sins are preached in the name of Jesus unto all, so do Thou enable me, through the belief of the gospel and the influence of heavenly grace, to repent of my transgressions with a thorough contrition of spirit, and to seek an earnest of pardon and a happy immortality in the growing goodness of my present life.

Almighty God, in the midst of my weakness, be Thou my strength; keep me from leaning to my own understanding; repress every principle within me that tends to evil; and cherish and bring forth into action every sentiment, every emotion and resolution, that is agreeable to Thy holy mind. Make me to be neither slothful in business nor negligent in doing whatsoever my hand findeth to do. Make me fervent in spirit, doing heartily whatsoever I do, as unto a heavenly Master and not unto men.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed to his way according to Thy word. O Jehovah, give Thou understanding unto me according to Thy word. Yea, give me that fear of Thee which is the beginning of knowledge. And make me so to get wisdom as to understand my way, and to become wise unto salvation. O teach me Thy statutes. Teach me from my youth up. Teach me all my life long. And if Thou allowest me to see old age and grey hairs, O forsake me not in the close of life. And in token of support and consolation at the hour of death, do Thou now enable me to spend my earlier and more active years as a season of preparation for the last act of life.

Enable me to set Thee and Thy holy law before me, and to live as beneath the inspection of Thy all-seeing eye, and in the remembrance of my own mortality and of Thy coming judgment. O make me to flee youthful lusts, and to be sober-minded; to eschew all impure, and proud, and insolent, and wrathful language; to hold fast the form of sound words in the faith and love of Christ; and to cleave stedfastly to everything that I have heard

and learned of Christ—to truth and honesty, and justice and purity,—even to everything that is lovely, and praiseworthy, and of good report. Keep me both from following a bad example, and from giving a bad example to others. Enable me to regulate my behaviour by the precepts of Thy holy law, and not by the false maxims and customs of the world. Deliver me from the temptations and snares which lead the unwary into sin. Grant me to set my affections on worthy objects, especially upon the glories of the other world, even upon Thyself, Thy favour, and Thy salvation. Enable me to acquire the knowledge and skill which are necessary for the proper exercise of my calling in the world. And do Thou grant me such prosperity as will enable me to provide for my own wants, and to discharge my obligations towards others. And O give me such merciful dispensations as will keep me afar from strife and danger, and make me happy in all the relations of life.

And, O gracious God, allow me not to seek prosperity and happiness in any other way than in just and lawful and honourable conduct. Let the blessedness of the man who neither walketh in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, be ever in my eye, and animate my diligence in watching against sin, and in adorning my own soul with the beauties of holiness. And let it ever be my chief delight, and the most ardent passion of my soul, to excel in the Christian profession, to obtain a place and a name among the saints, and to lay up treasures in heaven—treasures of a more enduring substance than the mammon of this

world. And all these, my earnest and humble prayers, I offer up, O Almighty God, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour; and in His words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

66. ANOTHER PRAYER OF A YOUNG PERSON.

O ALMIGHTY God, Father of all the families of the earth, I am Thy creature, holding my life from Thee, and depending upon Thy care and protection for such measure of health and strength and comfort as I enjoy. Ever since I was born into the world, Thou hast watched over me; Thy right hand hath holden me up; and hitherto I have come in safety through the dangers and diseases to which infancy and youth are exposed. Let not the health and activity of youth make me forgetful of the watchful providence and heavenly grace which are needful for the welfare both of my soul and of my body.

O teach me to understand Thy holy will, as Thou speakest it in the gospel of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. O send me wisdom from above, so that I may both see the ruinous consequences of sin, and may flee betimes with all earnestness to the Cross of Christ. Forgive, I beseech Thee, my many sins, both in thought, in word, and in deed; and give me strength for the resisting of temptation, and the enduring of the hardships and disappointments of the world.

Enable me so to live in the fear of Thee, and in the love of Thy law, as to flee youthful lusts, and to shun the company of profligates, and all occasions of sin. Make me to know and to perform the duty which Thou requirest of me, in whatever circumstances and relations of life I may be placed. Give me comfort in the use of religious ordinances, as means of grace and of spiritual improvement. Whithersoever I go, and into whatsoever society I may be cast, do Thou enable me to hold fast the profession of the gospel, and to give Christ the possession of my affections and the direction of my life.

If Thou shalt allow me to see many days upon earth, grant also, I beseech Thee, that as I grow in age I may grow in goodness, and in favour with Thee and with man. May the contemplation of my latter end, and of the day of judgment, constrain me to remember my Creator and His commandments in the days of my youth, and throughout all the years of my maturer life. Grant that, all my life long, faith and virtue, knowledge and temperance, patience and godliness, brotherly affection and universal love, may so abound in me, as to show that I am not a barren or unfruitful hearer of the words of Christ, but an affectionate doer of His will. When my outward man decays, O make me thrive and flourish still in the inner man, and even unto old age to bring forth abundant fruit in the exemplary behaviour and spiritual comforts of my closing life, for the encouragement of others. When my pilgrimage is over, O grant, for the sake of Thy beloved Son, that the burden and the remembrance of my former sins may pass away from me for ever with the present world, and give place to

the services and joys of a holy, an immortal life, in an eternal world.

And now and evermore unto Thee, O holy Father, be ascribed all glory and honour and praise, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who, assuming the nature of man, and passing through all the stages of life, from the manger of Bethlehem to the Cross of Calvary, died and rose again, and liveth for ever our great High Priest and merciful Mediator, to offer up the prayers of His people, and to plead their cause. Amen.

67. PRAYER OF AN AGED PERSON.

ETERNAL Jehovah, whose days are not as the days of man, be gracious unto me, whose pilgrimage is hastening to a close. Holy Father, compassionate Thy penitent child, who in all humility returns from his wanderings and seeks to be reconciled unto Thee. Almighty Lord, deliver me, Thy weak and helpless creature, from the temptations of the world and the deceitfulness of my own heart. O Thou great Author and Source of life, in mercy still uphold my goings, till the working out of my salvation be accomplished; for I am on the borders of the grave, and within the reach of death. And be Thou pleased to grant that, if I shall yet be permitted to live, the principle of evil may be daily mortified within me, and the Christian graces may even yet, in my old age, flourish within me under Thy fostering care.

Much have I received of Thee, and little have I rendered unto Thee in return. Thy mercies have been innumerable, and my thanksgivings have been few. I have been allowed to live Sabbath after Sabbath,—yea, years of Sabbaths; but few are the Sabbaths that I have lived, as they ought to have been lived, unto Thee. Week after week has revolved to me in the land of the living; but that day of the week which Thou art pleased to call especially Thine own day, I have grudged to withdraw from the world and from my own vain thoughts, and to give it unto Thee. Year after year Thou hast borne with my forgetfulness, my ingratitude, and disrespect. Nor has Thy goodness been effectual in leading me to a suitable repentance.

O merciful God, Thou mightest have withdrawn my comforts, and taken away my life, and consigned me to punishment. O grant me the forgiveness of my sins; and let the forbearance and mercy which Thou hast shown to me so long, be a token for good still; and do Thou grant that, before I go the way of all the earth, I may redeem my time from sin and folly, and give it unreservedly unto Thee, in the exercise of faith and repentance, and in the practice of a new and a better obedience. As death came into the world through sin, so do Thou enable me, before I lay down my fleshly load in the grave, to die unto sin, and to feel the power of Christ's resurrection in newness of life. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and I pray that as He once died and rose again for the sake of His people, so also I may be quickened by His Spirit in the inner man with

a better life, and constrained to loathe sin and to cleave unto that which is good. O may He who took part of flesh and blood, and through death destroyed him who had the power of death, destroy the power of sin within me; so that the sting of death may be taken away, and I may pass, full of hope, out of time into eternity.

As Thou hast graciously prolonged my life through many years, and preserved me hitherto from innumerable dangers and diseases, which have slain thousands of younger persons in the world around me, so, when the time of my own departure comes, do Thou enable me to finish my course with joy, and to bear the pain and weakness of closing life with such resignation and patience as become the follower of Jesus. O cast me not off in the time of old age. Forsake me not, when my strength faileth, and the evil days come wherein there is no pleasure.

Let the dim eye, the dull ear, and the feeble body, with which old age is accompanied, bring along with them clearer views of my Redeemer, and find me listening more earnestly to the good news of the gospel, and growing stronger in the inner man under the influences of heavenly grace. Whatever disrelish of spiritual joy, in comparison of corporeal pleasure, I have formerly manifested, I pray that Thou wouldst enable me more and more to relish heavenly things, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to enjoy, even here, a foretaste of the pleasures which Thou hast in store for Thy people hereafter. Amidst the failure of my bodily strength, and the decay of my outward senses, do Thou quicken

my perception of spiritual things, and strengthen my faith in the reality of the invisible world, and uphold my hope of salvation and of eternal life. Do Thou grant me yet to flourish in the courts of my God, and to bring forth fruit even in old age. And let Thy mighty influences so operate upon my dull and sluggish frame, that I may put off the old man and put on the new man, before I am called to appear before Thee in another world. Do Thou so keep me now in the way of righteousness, that the hoary head may be a crown of glory to me here; and when I pass through the gate of death, be Thou graciously pleased to show me the path of life, and to receive me into Thy presence, where there is fulness of joy beyond the fear of death and of sin.

And what is my strength, O God, that I should hope for other days? And what is mine end, and what are the comforts of age, that I should seek to prolong my life? My strength faileth; the light of mine eyes is gone; the joints of my loins are loosed; my knees smite one against the other; and I can no longer retain the spirit, when Thou commandest it to return unto Thee.

And now, Almighty God, Dispenser of life and death, whether I am to live or to die, do Thou grant that I may live and die unto Christ, and in the confident hope of another, an immortal life. And for the sake of Christ, do Thou blot out all my transgressions, and forgive my heavy load of guilt. And unto Thee, O Jehovah, the true and living God, with whom is the fountain of life, and in whose hand is the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind, be glory for evermore, through

Jesus Christ; in whose name and words I further pray: Our Father, etc.

68. PRAYER OF A MASTER.

ALMIGHTY God, the whole race of men are Thy creatures, and of Thee, O great Creator, they hold their life, their place, and their station upon earth. All are Thy servants, and Thou art their Lord, their Owner, and their Master.

Though many of my fellow-creatures around me are the servants of men, and Thou hast made me in the midst of servants to be a master, I pray that I may never forget my nothingness in Thy sight. I am formed of the dust of the ground, as well as the least and meanest of Thy creatures. I know that I cannot be great in the kingdom of heaven without being meek and lowly and humble among men. And whether we be masters or servants in this world, we all profess to belong to the household of faith, and to be servants of a common Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever authority Thou hast given me, O give me also kindness and gentleness in the use of it. And forbid, O merciful Father, that while they who serve me shine in the beauties of holiness, I should so fail in my duty as to run my race in vain, and leave my crown to be taken by another.

Almighty Lord, I profess to be Thy servant. May I be a merciful master unto others. Give me to remember that, inasmuch as we are all brethren, we ought not to

rule one over another with rigour; and that a woe is denounced against the man who, greedy of unrighteous gain, uses his neighbour's service without wages. Knowing that I have a Master in heaven, I pray that I may be enabled to give to servants what is just and equal, and to refrain from threatening and unseemly language.

O holy Lord, we are all of us servants of sin. Do Thou mercifully deliver me more and more from such an ignominious service, and make me free with the glorious liberty of the children of God—free from the bondage of Satan, free from the dominion of the bad passions and evil affections by which the soul of fallen man is overrun.

We are laden, both master and servant, with the burden of sin. O make me to listen and to cleave unto Him who proclaims liberty to the captive, and the remission of sin to the penitent. Make me both able and willing to take His yoke upon me, to learn meekness and humility from His example, and to look upon Him as our common Master, and upon ourselves as fellow-servants and brethren in His household.

And, O great and dreadful God, allow us never to forget, neither master nor servant, neither rich nor poor, that we shall all ere long meet together in the chambers of death, where the servant is free from his master; and that, at the end of the world, we shall all alike stand before the judgment-seat of Christ, with whom there is no respect of persons. And do Thou grant, O gracious God, that we may so exercise mercy and forgiveness towards one another, as it becomes them who wish to obtain the for-

giveness of their sins from Thee, and to be admitted into the holy society and communion of heaven.

And, O Almighty God, my Sovereign Lord and Master, whose service requires me to exercise the royal law of love towards my fellow-sinners, as well as to put forth my whole heart and soul and strength and mind in the love and worship of Thy holy name, I beseech Thee to hear my prayer, and to grant my request, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, Thine only-begotten Son, my merciful and compassionate Redeemer. Amen.

69. PRAYER OF A SERVANT.

ALMIGHTY God, my Creator and Preserver, my Lord and Benefactor, I approach Thee with the deepest feelings of veneration and awe; and I implore Thee to accept me and my service, through Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Thou art the universal Parent, the Father of all the families of the earth; and all of us, whether we be high or low, rich or poor, are Thy children, and have received their places and their stations from Thee. I pray that Thou wouldst enable me to be faithful in the discharge of the duties to which I am called. And do Thou grant, that while others are exalted to a higher rank, I may be thankful unto Thee for the circumstances of my earthly lot, and desirous of approving myself to be a faithful servant of Thine in serving my earthly master.

Thou art the Supreme Ruler, from whom cometh the

ordering of our several lots. Thou bringest down, and Thou raisest up. Thou makest rich, and Thou makest poor. Thou liftest up the poor out of the dust, and settest them among the princes of the people.

Almighty God, enable me to fulfil the duties of the place in which Thou hast set me among my fellow-creatures. And do Thou grant, that in whatsoever situations I may yet be called to serve others in the great family of mankind, I may remember the honour and obedience which are due unto masters. Make me to serve not with eye-service, as a men-pleaser, but in singleness of heart, and in the fear of Thee, as becometh a servant of Christ. Whatever I do, whether it be in the presence of a mortal eye or not, may I remember that Thine all-seeing eye is ever upon me, and that I am called upon to testify my love of Thee in the earnestness with which I perform my service unto men. Do Thou enable me to adorn the doctrine of my God and Saviour, in showing all good fidelity and truthfulness and honesty, and in giving my service with good-will, as unto Thee and not unto men. And do Thou grant, that as Thou callest both master and servant to the same holiness and salvation through the blood of Christ and the influence of His Spirit, so may we feel our common wants, and strive to promote our spiritual improvement in a Christian behaviour towards each other.

Almighty God, I pray that, though I am the servant of man, I may be more and more delivered from the service and dominion of sin, and that I may more and more attain to the liberty wherewith Christ makes His people free. Forgive, I beseech Thee, the many transgressions of my past

life, for the sake of Thy beloved Son; and through Him be Thou graciously pleased to receive me into Thy family by adoption, and to make me an heir of eternal life. As the arrangements of Thy providence have placed me in the capacity of a servant among men; so, through Thy dispensation of grace, I pray that I may be admitted hereafter to the membership of the great family of heaven, where all are brethren of Jesus, and perform one and the same service of adoration and praise. While the time of my earthly service lasts, O grant me to pass through it with cheerfulness and contentment, and to remember that godliness with contentment is great gain, issuing in the blessedness of eternal life. O make me to be diligent in working the work for which Thou sentest me into the world; for the night cometh apace, when no man can work. And as I know not when this night cometh to take me from time into eternity, I pray that I may be ever watchful, and mindful of the services of the other world. And do Thou grant that when my Saviour comes to call me hence, I may hear the gladsome words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!' And through this same Lord, whom Thou hast exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, be all glory ascribed unto Thee, O Father, both now and evermore. Amen.

70. PRAYER OF A SAILOR.

ALMIGHTY God, Maker of heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, Upholder, Ruler, and

Preserver of whatsoever Thou hast made, how manifold are Thy works! how abundant the goodness which provides for the support of Thy creatures, sinful and unworthy though they are! Thine are the heavens, with all their host. The earth hast Thou given to the sons of men, and it is full of Thy riches. Thine is the day, and Thine is the night. Thou makest summer and winter. Thou commandest the sun, and it riseth not. Thou sealest up the stars. Thou makest the winds Thy messengers, and flaming fires Thy servants. Thy way is in the sea, and Thy path in the great waters. Thou walkest upon the waves of the sea; and when they rise, Thou stillest them again.

Almighty God, let Thy protection go with them who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters. Especially do I entreat Thee, at this time, to look down with a gracious eye upon myself, whose calling exposes me to the dangers of the sea. O Thou who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea, I pray Thee to give me, whithersoever my course is directed, a safe path through the waters, and to bring me to the desired haven, whether it be in the uttermost parts of the sea, or at home on the shore of my native land.

Thy throne, O Jehovah, is in the heavens. Thy pavilion is dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. Thou reignest on high, and art mightier than the noise of many waters; yea, mightier than the mighty waves of the sea. O that I, Thy helpless creature, may ever stand in awe of Thee, the Great Creator, who, as Thou

pleasest, commandest the stormy wind to lift up the waves, and then again rebukest the wind and the sea, and makest the storm a calm.

Almighty God, be pleased to take possession of my heart; and do Thou enable me, through Thy heavenly grace, to suppress the tumults which rage within me in the inner man,—my unruly passions, inordinate appetites, insatiable desires, and evil affections. Make me so to resist the surrounding temptations, and to exercise watchfulness over my heart and conduct, that I may both enjoy the consolations of the gospel myself, and commend the cause of Christ to my companions and friends. Keep me mindful of the misery and wretchedness of those who come under the dominion of sin. Let the troubled and restless sea, whose waters cast up mire and dirt, be ever to me an emblem of the foulness and shame which belong to the wicked. And O, just and holy God, may Thine awful denunciation ever sound in my ears, that 'there is no peace to the wicked.'

'Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty: Just and true Thy ways, O King of nations. Who shall not fear Thee, O Jehovah, and glorify Thy name? For Thou only art holy; and all nations shall come and worship before Thee.' Lord, I bewail before Thee my own sin, and the sin of my countrymen, and our neglect of the Scriptures and of devotional exercises. I bewail before Thee the sin, the ignorance, and misery of the nations which are far off from the light of Zion, and walk in darkness; and I pray that they who seek the gains of commerce in distant lands among the heathen,

may assist in conveying the precious gift of the gospel to the heathen in return. If Thou grant them success in their pursuits, O grant them also to show their gratitude by inscribing a portion of their gains as holy unto Thee. If Thou allowest them to lay up gold as dust, yea, gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks, do Thou also make them to remember the Christian missionaries, resolute and faithful men, who, going a warfare under the banners of the Messiah, strive to pull down the strongholds of idolatry, and to bring Thy rebellious creatures to the knowledge of their allegiance and duty. Into whatsoever regions of the world I may myself be called to go in my earthly service, O make me to keep my heavenly calling ever in my eye, to fight the good fight of faith with all zeal and perseverance, and to press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Instead of imitating the Gentiles, and walking as they do in the vanity of their minds, the darkness of their understanding, and the hardness of their heart, may I, through Thy heavenly grace, be enabled to walk circumspectly, and to testify the salutary influence which the gospel has upon my own life and conversation.

And, O Great and Glorious Jehovah, to whom belongeth the worship of every creature, I pray that speedily may come the time when, from the rising to the going down of the sun, the sacrifice of holy and penitent, of devout and affectionate hearts, will be everywhere offered up unto Thee, the one true God, through Thy Son Jesus Christ, the one Mediator between Thee and man. And for the [illegible] diator, be Thou graciously pleased to hear

my prayer, to forgive my sin, to protect me from danger, to grant me all accommodation while I am here, and to save me afterward with an everlasting salvation in a future world. And now, unto Thee, O Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, be all glory ascribed for evermore. Amen.

71. PRAYER OF A SOLDIER.

O ALMIGHTY God, Supreme and Universal Sovereign, who rulest over all worlds, and doest according to Thy will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, I implore Thy favour in behalf of my country; and I earnestly pray that, as Thou hast made us to be great among the nations of the earth, so also we may be distinguished for our loyalty unto Thee, and our observance of Thy righteous and holy laws. Let Thy special protection be extended towards them who come forth to take up arms in defence of their native land; and do Thou make them to be faithful to their oaths of allegiance, and worthy of the confidence which the nation reposes in their patriotism and zeal.

Lord God of Hosts, as my own name is enrolled among them, do Thou grant me such strength and wisdom and courage as will make me efficient in the discharge of the services to which I may be called. Keep me ever mindful of sobriety and temperance, and of all such exercises as uphold the health of the body, and the vigour of the mind.

To whatsoever duty I may be appointed, be Thou with me, to defend and to direct,—a Shield to me in the hour of danger, a Guide in the time of difficulty and of doubt. Unless Thou keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain. And if Thy watchful eyes be not on me for good, I am not safe from the assaults of disease and death, either by day or by night.

Allow me not to know the fear of man in the discharge of duty. And O grant that my fear of Thee may indeed be a filial fear, constraining me, O heavenly Father, to look upon the doing of my military duty as the doing of Thy holy will. And whatever obligations I owe to my country and to my fellow-creatures, either naturally or by engagement, I pray that I may be enabled to perform them cheerfully, for the love of Thee, who art a just God, and the common Father of us all.

While I am mindful of the duties of my earthly calling, O let me not forget that I am a soldier of Jesus Christ, and am bound by the profession of the gospel to the exercise of a spiritual calling.

O Lord of Hosts, strengthen me in the inner man. Dislodge all vain thoughts, and unjust desires, and irregular passions. Repel the temptations of the world afar from mine eyes. Keep me from yielding to the influence of evil example. Fortify my soul against the inroad of sin with the recollection of Christian duty and the influence of heavenly grace. Train me up through all the discipline of religion,—her ordinances, sacraments, prayers, and instructions,—to endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, to fight the good fight of faith, to vanquish all my spiritual

enemies, visible and invisible, under the banner of the Cross, and to gain the prize of the Christian warfare in the glory and blessedness of eternal life. And do Thou grant, O gracious God, that, at whatsoever time and in whatsoever manner I am appointed to die, I may meet the last enemy without fear, and finish the period of my warfare with joy, and be able, when I yield to the power of the universal destroyer, to sing in triumph, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to Thee, O God, who givest me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ, the Captain of my salvation.' And, O merciful Creator, who madest of one blood all the nations of the earth, do Thou grant, that in fulfilment of ancient prophecy, the Messiah's kingdom may be speedily established over all the kingdoms of this world; that ambition and covetousness, grudging and animosities, may cease to agitate the breasts of men; that the sword may be beaten into the ploughshare, and the spear into the pruning-hook, and that the art of war may be learned no more.

Again, O Almighty God, I commit myself, soul and body, my life, and all my concerns, into Thy hands. And unto Thee, O Father, and to Thy Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Ghost, the Spirit that proceedeth from the Father and the Son, for the sanctifying of sinners, be glory ascribed, both now and evermore, both in time and throughout eternity. Amen.

72. PRAYER FOR SUCCESS IN OUR TEMPORAL VOCATIONS.

O THOU who rulest above, God Almighty, Jehovah Infinite and Unsearchable, I acknowledge Thee to be the Maker of the world, and the Giver of all life and joy. Of Thee and for Thee does everything exist. Honour and homage and praise be rendered to Thine adorable name, that Thou hast communicated a portion of Thy happiness to man. With all reverence do I express my thankfulness for life itself, for all the powers and capacities of rational nature, and for every comfort that I derive from the external world.

All is Thy gift: All came from Thee; and of Thee all is held. Thee do I thankfully confess and acknowledge to be the Source and Origin of the whole. Lord, it is not of myself that I have what I have. I have nothing whereof to glory or to boast. It is not my own might or wisdom or device that hath brought me hitherto. Not unto myself, but unto Thee, and to the arrangements of Thy bountiful providence, be the glory and the praise and the merit of all I enjoy ascribed.

Lord, I am Thine, with everything that I now possess upon earth. Though sentence of death is passed on me, as on all flesh, life is still lengthened to me here, and my earthly portion is still continued to me, ungrateful and unworthy though I have been. Through all the ways that Thou hast led me in the wilderness of this world, bread has been given to me, and my water has been sure. And

as Thou hast hitherto helped me, so, of Thy great goodness, be Thou pleased to help me still, and to strengthen me for such work as awaits me in the world. Do Thou so bless the labours of my earthly vocation with success, that they may yield the means of a sober, temperate, and healthful life. And whatsoever temporal provision Thou suppliest, do Thou make me to think not merely of my own comforts, but of the claims which the needy and the wretched have upon them whose greater worldly abundance requires them to abound in the grace of liberality. And while Thy bounty appears in the temporal comforts which Thou allowest me to enjoy, I pray that Thy grace and mercy and spiritual gifts may so abound towards me, that I may thrive especially in my Christian vocation, and become rich in faith and good works, the earnest of the heavenly inheritance.

Almighty Creator, the whole world of creatures, rich and poor, Jewish, heathen, and Christian, is Thine. All the nations of men that dwell upon the face of the earth Thou madest of one blood; and we are all of us Thine offspring. O gracious God, do Thou ever keep me mindful of my brethren, the heathen who yet sit in darkness. Do Thou make my compassion for their spiritual wants, and my affection for our common Saviour, Thy Son Jesus Christ, to appear in my contributions and prayers, along with my Christian brethren, who send labourers and faithful men with the tidings of salvation into every land. And do Thou grant, O mighty God, who art King of the nations over all the earth, that at length, in the latter days, the earth may be filled with the knowledge of the gospel, as

the waters cover the sea, and all the kingdoms of the world become Thine, O Jehovah, and Thy Messiah's; and that all the nations, whether Jewish or Gentile by descent, may, through Christ Jesus, be one in faith and love and dutiful obedience.

And now, O my God, I pray that, while I am allowed to have a station and a portion upon earth, I may be enabled, through Thy heavenly grace, to serve Thee more acceptably myself, and to live more conformably to the requirements of the gospel; so that at last, when my services and duties are ended here, I may be admitted to the worship and joy of heaven, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom I implore the forgiveness of my sins, and unto whom, with Thee, O Father, and with the Holy Ghost, be all glory ascribed for evermore. Amen.

73. PRAYER AFTER READING A PORTION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

ALMIGHTY God, Source of all life and knowledge, I acknowledge that though Thou art invisible to mortal eyes, the operation of Thy hand is seen and felt throughout the whole of the mighty world. Thou didst not leave Thyself without witness among men; for Thou gavest them rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filledst their hearts with food and gladness. But, alas! they were unthankful and became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. And I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven, that Thou hast spoken

unto me in the Holy Scriptures as well as in the work of creation, and that things which Thou hadst hid from the wise and learned in old times are now revealed unto babes, even unto the humble and penitent, who come to learn of Christ. Lord, unto whom should I go but unto Christ? He alone hath the words of eternal life; and still He speaketh in the words of His apostles and evangelists as never man spake before.

O Father of lights, enlighten the eyes of my understanding, that I may be able to read the Scripture profitably, and to see and acknowledge therein both Thy holy will and my own bounden duty. Teach me Thy statutes. Lead me in a plain way. Let Thy word be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. And do Thou so inspire me with the hatred of folly and the love of wisdom, that I may strive with greater earnestness to become learned in the words which the Holy Ghost and not the wisdom of man giveth.

Give me to know Thee, the one true God, and Thy Son Jesus Christ, whom Thou didst send with the message of salvation unto man, that my knowledge, sanctifying both the inward and the outward man, may bring unto me the sweet experience of a new and better life here, and be an earnest of an eternal life hereafter.

O grant that the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, may guide me unto all the truth as it is revealed in Jesus; and, through this truth—this gospel of Jesus—may I be set free from the pride and conceit of the natural man, and from the errors, the false principles, and evil influences of the world.

Let the word of Christ dwell in me richly in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Let Thy Spirit bring to my remembrance all the things which Christ hath spoken in the gospel for the regulating of my heart and my life, my thoughts, words, and deeds. Do Thou graciously enable me both to feel inwardly within my own soul, and to manifest outwardly in the world, that all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness and in all Christian duty. And O Thou, in whose hand is the soul of every living thing, be Thou pleased so to strengthen all my faculties, my memory, my affection, and my diligence, for the benefit of religion, that I may daily, in a greater degree, partake of the blessedness of those who read and understand and obey the commandments, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, unto whom, with Thee, O Father, and with the Holy Ghost, be all glory ascribed, now and evermore. Amen.

74. GRACES BEFORE AND AFTER MEAT.

FOR INDIVIDUALS.

Before Meat.

I BLESS and extol Thee, O God, Thou Giver of all good, who still preparest a table for me in this house of my earthly pilgrimage. Do Thou strengthen me both in body and soul for the duties and toils and trials which still await me here. Keep me from all intemperance and excess and waste of time; and grant that when my pil-

grimage is ended on earth, I may be admitted into the house which is eternal, the work not of man's hand, but of Thine on high, through the merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

After Meat.

I bless and praise Thee, O God, Thou Lord and Sustainer of all life, who hast again given me food for my body. Do Thou give me grace also for the nourishment of my soul. Forgive my trespasses. Preserve me from the snares of sin. Restrain my desire of bodily indulgences within the bounds of temperance. Rouse me to a greater care of my spiritual interests; and grant that, while I labour and long for my bodily supplies, I may earnestly ask also, and plentifully obtain, spiritual gifts—faith, love, and obedience, peace of mind now, and the confident hope of glory hereafter, through the merits of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

75. GRACES BEFORE AND AFTER MEAT.

FOR FAMILIES.

Before Meat.

WE acknowledge Thee, O God, in this and in all our enjoyments; and we pray that, whatsoever Thou givest, Thou wouldst give Thy blessing along with it, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Meat.

We thank Thee, O God, for what of Thy goodness

Thou hast again made to pass before us; and we humbly pray, that as Thou sustainest our lives with food, so Thou wouldst put Thy grace into our hearts and keep us in Thy fear, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before Meat.

Almighty God, Thou art the Author of all good unto man. Bless us as we again partake of Thy bounty; and let Thy spiritual grace, accompanying these Thy corporeal gifts, strengthen us for the doing of Thy holy will in the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Meat.

Almighty God, Thou Giver of all good and Sustainer of every living thing, grant a blessing along with the food which Thou again suppliest for the refreshment of our bodies. Pardon the sin of our souls. Make us strong in the inner man, and nourish us up unto eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before Meat.

All praise be unto Thee, Almighty God, who continually suppliest the wants of our feeble bodies. Give us a relish for spiritual food; and so nourish our souls with the bread of life, that we may reach the stature of the perfect Christian, and be admitted into the holy society of heaven, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Meat.

Blessed be Thou, Almighty God, who hast again re-

membered our wants and renewed Thy bounty. Keep us in mind of our dependent condition. Teach us to esteem the words of Thy mouth more than our necessary food. And enable us to seek our truest enjoyment in the doing of Thy holy will, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

76. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

77. DOXOLOGIES.

1. Now unto Thee, our God and Father, and unto Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, through whom Thou art in all things to be glorified, be glory and praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Phil. iv. 20; 1 Peter iv. 11.)

2. Now unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only wise God; and unto Jesus Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto His God and Father, be

honour and glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Tim. i. 17; Rev. i. 5, 6.)

3. Halleluiah: Salvation and glory and honour be unto the Lord our God. Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen. (Rev. xix. 1; Rev. v. 13.)

78. BENEDICTIONS.

1. The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace. (Num. vi. 24, 25, 26.)

2. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen. (2 Cor. xiii. 14.)

3. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us, and with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. (1 Cor. xvi. 23; Eph. vi. 24.)

4. Now may the God of peace be with us all, and sanctify us wholly, and give us peace always, by all means. And may peace be unto the brethren, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, for ever- [illegible] Amen. (Rom. xv. 33.)

HYMNS.

I will sing unto Jehovah; I will sing praise to Jehovah, the God of Israel.—JUDG. v. 3.

I will sing unto Jehovah as long as I live, I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.—PS. civ. 33.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.—EXOD. xv. 2.

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.—REV. xv. 3.

HYMNS.

1. SUNDAY MORNING.

O HOLY Morn, I hail the day,
  The first that pour'd the joyous ray,
  To cheer primeval gloom.
I hail the day, a brighter far,
Which saw relentless death unbar
  The great Messiah's tomb.

To me no other day conveys
Such bliss as thine, thou first of days,
  As thou art still the best.
No sooner greets thy beam my eye,
Than upwards soars my soul on high,
  In search of heavenly rest.

O God, to Thee my soul ascends;
On Thee for light and life depends,
  To-day and all the week;
And now for this and every day,
If other days I here shall stay,
  Thy favour, Lord, I seek.

From Thee all light, all glory flows,
As erst when smiling day arose
On Nature's youthful face.
O shine into my darken'd mind,
And th' inner life, where'er it's blind,
Illume with heavenly grace.

O sweet and precious gospel, be
A light through all my life to me,
And clearly show my way.
And, mighty God, within me deign
O'er thought and wish and will to reign,
Lest I from Thee should stray.

Whatever rites of praise or prayer
Within Thy house demand my care,
Let all be sweet to me.
And Sabbath, oft as dawns its light,
Be own'd my soul's supreme delight,
And weekly jubilee.

2. SUNDAY EVENING.

HOW sweet when dawns the morning light,
Or round me fall the shades of night,
To wait, O God, on Thee;
To own Thy providential care,
And offer up my fervent prayer,
Through Christ, on bended knee!

And sweeter far, if 'tis the day
Wherein the grave gave up its prey,
  And Christ to life arose,—
A day which still, with high delight,
I give to Thee in holy rite,
  And now with Thee I close.

Whate'er this day with ear or tongue
I've heard, or said, or prayed, or sung,
  Do Thou accept the whole;
And send me what is needful here
T' uphold my feeble frame, and cheer
  And renovate my soul.

Whate'er I do, let thoughts of Thee
Prevail 'bove other thoughts in me,
  And hallow ev'ry day;
That so I more for heav'n may long,
Where angels pour a sweeter song,
  And Sabbath lasts for aye.

And now to Thee, and Christ Thy Son,
By whom for men heaven's rest is won,
  And mansions reared on high;
And also to the Holy Ghost,
Who into life breath'd all the host
  That worships in the sky,—

Be glory, honour, bliss, and praise,
With grateful voice, in gladsome lays,
  Ascribed as heretofore,—

Ascrib'd by ev'ry living thing,
To Him who is of life the spring,
Both now and evermore.

3. MONDAY MORNING.

THE morn dispels the shades of night;
Now comes the busy day.
O guide me, Lord of life and light,
Wherever lies my way.
If forth I go at duty's call,
Or find my work at home,
O send me aid, lest ill befall,
From heaven's refulgent dome.

Through all Thy worlds Thy mighty hand,
Although unseen, is felt.
Yea, as Thou pleasest, o'er the land
Are health and gladness dealt.
Where'er's my lot, whate'er's my fare,
Depends on Thy decree;
Nor thrives a creature anywhere
Unless he's bless'd of Thee.

Jehovah! be this day to me,
Indeed a day of weal;
O grant me no distress to see,
No dire remorse to feel.

Let evening come with nought of ill,
  And worldly business cease,
That I Thy name may worship still,
  And fall asleep in peace.

4. MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU in whom alone is light,
  Afar Thy glories shine;
Thou makest day, Thou makest night,
  And morn and eve are Thine.
Again Thou makest night, and I,
  Again upon my bed,
In sleep will close my heavy eye,
  And rest my weary head.

No sleep nor slumber needest Thou,
  O everlasting God;
Thy watchful eye be o'er me now,
  Whatever ill's abroad.
Omniscient God! alike to Thee
  Are both the day and night;
Nor grave, nor hell, nor depths of sea
  Elude Thy piercing sight.

O strengthen me, while 'neath Thy wing,
  The silent night I lie;
And back again let morning bring
  The light to cheer my eye.

Almighty God, I humbly pray,
Do Thou me ever keep,
Both when I walk abroad by day,
And when by night I sleep.

5. TUESDAY MORNING.

AWAKE, my soul, the cheerful note;
To God thy early thoughts devote:
And, ere abroad thy fancy strays,
Aloft to Him thy matins raise.

When wearied with the toils of day,
And bound in sleep my powers lay,
Jehovah watch'd around my bed,
And o'er my head His curtain spread.

'Tis God, who slumbers not nor sleeps,
That me by night from danger keeps,
Brings day again from the orient skies,
And bids the dawn relume my eyes.

O that with dawn of morn a beam
Upon my soul from heaven may stream;
My heart with heavenly ardour fire,
My mind with heavenly truth inspire.

O may my life, which sleep repairs
Beneath God's ever watchful cares,

Be afterwards renewed on high,
Where nought of man again shall die.

When fails the sun, and day, and noon,
And night, and night's pale orb, the moon,
Be God my everlasting light,
My staff, my shield, my sole delight.

6. TUESDAY EVENING.

RECALL, my soul, each wandering thought;
To God let all thy powers be brought.
Again does God thy homage claim,
Ere sleep steals o'er my languid frame.

Say whence this day's protection came,
And bless the great Protector's name.
God's mighty arm each foe repelled,
And 'mid disease my life upheld.

My God, me still be pleased to keep,
While night seals up my pow'rs in sleep;
And if the morn my pow'rs set free,
Hallow my soul with thoughts of Thee.

Or, if now come the sleep of death,
And night disperse my fleeting breath,
O may the soul I yield to Thee
A day of greater glory see.

Thine is the day, and Thine the night,
And Thine the source of life and light;
And Thine the grave, a mighty bed,
Where rest awhile the sleeping dead.

When time is run, and millions wake,
May I Thy people's lot partake;
My soul her fellow-flesh assume,
And both their ancient song resume.

7. WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BEGIN, my soul, begin the sacred lay;
Now glows the heaven, now shines the rising day;
The morn salutes thee: rise thou too on high,
And speak His praise, whose glory gilds the sky.

The shades have fled away, and light regains
The joyous world, and rules the ethereal plains:
Within thyself let all be light and joy,
And songs of praise, thy first, thy best employ.

Arouse thy faculties; be all awake;
And now in prayer thyself to God partake,
Before the calm, which morning ushers in,
Shall yield to active life, its strife and din.

'Tis Thou, Jehovah, that around my bed
Hast watched again, and fenc'd my soul from dread;

With Thine assistance up again I rise,
And bless Thee, Lord, that light relumes my eyes.

From Thee, of old, o'er Chaos shone the light:
Thou mad'st the orbs that rule the day and night,—
The vivifying sun and blaze of noon,
And milder radiance of the silent moon.

On Thee, O bounteous God, my life depends:
Lo! morn again, from Thee, with gifts descends;
The light returns, and wakes my joy anew,
And brings the source of life again to view.

O let me live as it becomes the light;
Live near to Christ, eschew the works of night;
And, looking far beyond the sun's bright way,
Aspire to live in heav'n's eternal day.

8. WEDNESDAY EVENING.

NOW, O my soul, departs the orb of day,
To pour on other lands his glorious ray:
The night again her ancient reign resumes,
And business pauses 'mid the thick'ning glooms.

To meditation now the hour is due:
Then let me rest, call home my thoughts anew;
And full of God and heaven's eternal life,
Forget the world awhile, with all its strife.

Again I thank Thee, O my God, that still
My life is spared, and I am safe from ill.
Another day has dawn'd, and shone, and set,
Brought gifts from Thee, and still increas'd my debt.

Thy pleasure 'twas; and hence hath ne'er a foe
Against me risen, nor sought to lay me low.
No violence, no plague's polluting breath,
Weak though I am, hath urged the work of death.

With Thee is safety, Lord; O grant that I,
As 'neath Thine own pavilion, down may lie,
And sweetly pass the placid hours of night,
Till moon salute me with her joyous light.

Do Thou, while slumber holds my pow'rs in thrall,
Renew their strength; and still, at duty's call,
May I rejoice, whate'er Thou givest me,
To give my pow'rs, my heart and life, to Thee.

Remind me ever of the lowly bed
Which still awaits me, down where sleep the dead;
And when eternal day illumes the eye,
O raise me up and take me to the sky.

9. THURSDAY MORNING.

JEHOVAH, again does the morning restore
New life and existence to me;
And waking again, I my Guardian adore,
Who hath kept me the morning to see.

Reviving from slumber and rising with morn,
  Again I of pleasure partake,
And thank Thee that erst into life I was born,
  That now unto life I awake.

Beneath Thy protection refreshment I sought,
  And Thou hast my powers renewed;
And gladly I give Thee my earliest thought,
  Ere day and its business intrude.

And whithersoever, my God, duty leads,
  Do Thou me accompany still;
And ever o'errule all my thoughts and my deeds,
  And save me from danger and ill.

And putting Thy Spirit within me, do Thou
  Deliver and keep me from sin;
And make me to feel that in holiness now,
  The pleasures of heaven begin.

10. THURSDAY EVENING.

JEHOVAH, again the departure of light
  Contented and thankful I see:
Again does the ev'ning my spirit invite
  To hold her communion with Thee.

Jehovah, 'tis Thou that preservest by day,
  No less than in silence of night.

The sun with his glory may lighten my way,
  But vain, without Thee, is the light.

'Tis Thou that alone art my strength and my stay:
  Thou leadest, and onward I go;
And if Thou forsake me, I stumble and stray,
  And sink to the regions below.

Now night and her shadows are round me again;
  Around me be also Thine arms.
All en'mies do Thou, O Jehovah, restrain,
  All terrors and startling alarms.

Upraise me when morning relumines the sky,
  To take up my anthem again;
And grant me hereafter, with angels on high,
  To join in a holier strain.

11. FRIDAY MORNING.

JEHOVAH, Almighty Protector of men,
  My soul out of slumber awakens again,
    And rises with morning to Thee;
To offer her homage, and fervently pray
That through Thy protection and favour this day
    From danger may wholly be free.

Do Thou, who dispellest the shadows of night,
And round me disclosest the wonders of light,
    Enlighten my spirit within;

And grant that, if evening I'm suffer'd to see,
The day I may finish, as now I with Thee
The day, O Jehovah, begin.

Whate'er are the duties, the pleasure, or pain,
Which now for my welfare Thy counsels ordain,
Do Thou my allegiance uphold:
And so Thy celestial assistance impart,
That I may maintain the control of my heart,
And fast my integrity hold.

Whate'er is afforded, whate'er is denied,
O keep me still thankful; and neither let pride
Nor hopelessness enter my mind.
Thou broughtest me hither; and while I am here,
O feed me, and clothe me, and ever be near,—
Henceforward, as formerly, kind.

With shame and with sorrow, I humbly confess
That oft I Thy statutes and precepts transgress;
And long Thou the trespass hast borne.
O save me, my Father, from sin and from woe,—
Thy pardon upon me in mercy bestow;
For daily my errors I mourn.

12. FRIDAY EVENING.

JEHOVAH, my Keeper by day and by night,
Without whose permission no foe can me smite,
No sorrow my dwelling invade;

To-day, as aforetime, Thy goodness I've seen,
And safe, as aforetime, from danger I've been,
Beneath Thy protection and aid.

Thy shield, as aforetime, be over me still;
Thy hand, as aforetime, defend me from ill,
From danger, and sickness, and pain.
Whatever would, under the cover of night,
Approach me for evil, that put Thou to flight,
And quiet around me maintain.

In the hours which to rest and to slumber are due,
Recruit me, Jehovah, for labour anew,
And raise me with dawning of day.
I know, and confess, that by nature I'm blind:
O shine Thou within me; enlighten my mind,
And drive all my darkness away.

To Thee are my daily necessities known,
And what I'm possess'd of is only a loan,
Which soon unto Thee I restore.
O Thou, who my table hast hitherto spread,
Thy bounty renew, giving still daily bread,
And filling my cup as before.

And ere Thou command me this body to quit,
Jehovah, do Thou my transgressions remit,—
The debt I can never discharge.
O take me, and cleanse me, and free me from sin:
Each evil affection extinguish within,
And daily my goodness enlarge.

13. SATURDAY MORNING.

TO Thee, O Jehovah, I gladly upraise
The voice of devotion, with dawning of day.
Again, O Preserver, the tribute of praise
To Thee for protection and safety I pay.

I thank Thee that Thou, O Dispenser of light,
Hast now into life me awakened anew;
Hast scattered the shadows and terrors of night,
And brought Thy creation again into view.

O lighten my mind with a radiance within;
O guide me aright through the duties of day;
O fence me against the approaches of sin;
Nor suffer the tempter to make me his prey.

Forgive, I entreat Thee, wherein I astray
Have wandered from duty, and comfort, and Thee.
Redeem me from bondage, and grant that I may,
To serve my Redeemer, henceforward be free.

Do Thou so endow me with courage and strength,
And send me the help of Thine angels, that I,
Proceeding from conquest to conquest, at length
May reach Thee in triumph and glory on high.

And, heavenly Father, O specially bend
An eye of affection and mercy on those

To whom Thou hast join'd me as kinsman or friend,
And life all its relish and happiness owes.

O join us more closely together in love,
As mutual helps in the struggle of life;
And grant us a portion together above,
Beyond the intrusion of trouble or strife.

14. SATURDAY EVENING.

AGAIN, O Jehovah, departeth the day,
And darkness and shadow my dwelling enclose:
All nature, but lately so lively and gay,
Now veileth her beauty and seeketh repose.

O Thou, unto whom both the day and the night,
And all the succession of seasons belong,
Call home my affections, and truly unite
My heart and my voice in my eventide song.

Again to my life Thou hast added a day;
O grant me again Thy protection this night.
If sickness or outrage an ambush should lay,
Put Thou, O Jehovah, the en'my to flight.

Refresh me in body and spirit anew,
While prostrate and helpless in slumber I lie.
Still show me Thy bounty; but chiefly imbue
My spirit with wisdom and strength from on high.

Blot Thou, O my God, mine iniquities out;
  Allow not mine errors against me to stand;
Subdue each temptation, each terror and doubt;
  And save me from hell, with omnipotent hand.

And still, as to me, so, Jehovah, to mine
  Do Thou Thy protection and favour extend.
In mercy adopt, and acknowledge as Thine,
  All those who are dear to me, kinsman or friend.

From Thee do the sweets of society spring;
  By Thee are our families stablished in love;
O hallow our houses and converse, and bring
  Our households to join with the household above.

15. BEFORE MEAT.

PSALM CXLV. 15, 16.

JEHOVAH, open Thou Thine hand,
  Diffuse Thy gifts below;
And far and near, o'er all the land,
  Let richest blessings flow.

Thou gavest life; be pleased to give
  Whate'er for life is good;
And while I'm here ordained to live,
  Oh send me needful food.

Within my house be plenty found,
  Within my bosom peace;

Through all my life let friends abound,
  And pleasure still increase.

With grace from heav'n do Thou refresh
  This weary soul of mine;
And ne'er, though sickness waste the flesh,
  Let holiness decline.

16. AFTER MEAT.

PSALM CXLVII. 12–14.

I PRAISE Thee, O Jehovah, still,
  That underneath Thy shade
I safe have lived, and ne'er of ill
  Nor want have been afraid.

Again hast Thou, for ever kind,
  The waste of life repaid:
Again I own, with grateful mind,
  That I've Thy bounty shared.

And still from heav'n, Thy holy place,
  Let streams of bounty roll;
Let living waters, yea, Thy grace,
  Refresh my thirsty soul.

And when I eat or drink, still, Lord,
  Be this my constant aim,
That I all glory may accord
  Unto Thy holy name.

17. THE NEW YEAR.

ALMIGHTY God, Thou First of Beings, who
  Eternal life hadst lived ere time began,
Nor feelest—though 'tis ever in Thy view—
  The change that Time in all things brings to man;

I give Thee thanks, that though in ev'ry clime
  Do men and things a ceaseless change display,
My life has ne'er, amid the flow of time,
  Along with things that were, been swept away.

Another year, in time's swift course, is gone;
  Much hath it changed, but it hath left me here;
And still Thy sun, which long for me hath shone,
  Illumes my steps, and warns of danger near.

If Thou hadst such a recompense displayed
  As man deserves of Thee, his injured Lord,
I long ago, in death's terrific shade,
  Had, 'neath Thy wrath, myself for sin abhorr'd.

O grant me other days, if so I may
  Repent of sin, and give my days to Thee:
Let other days—another year—convey
  Thy pardon, Lord, and purer joy to me.

As rolls the year, so too may I go on
  In wisdom's way, and humbly walk with Thee;
And when my journey's o'er, and time is gone,
  O grant me heaven's eternal day to see.

18. BEFORE A JOURNEY.

GENESIS XXVIII. 15.

JEHOVAH, Thou, with cloud by day,
  With flame of fire by night,
Wast pleas'd o'er wastes to show the way,
  And guide Thy folk aright.
And still Thy gracious cares attend
  Thy folk, where'er they go;
And mighty pow'rs their lives defend
  Against th' assailing foe.

O God, my sure defence, be still
  Thy child's support and stay,
And guard my life, whatever ill
  May hover o'er my way.
When forth I go, do Thou, my Friend,
  My Guide, go with me too;
That I, till all my wand'rings end,
  May danger's road eschew.

Whatever snares my way beset,
  Do Thou direct my feet:
Ward off temptation, be it threat,
  Or lure, however sweet.

And when what duty bids I've done,
  Nor farther need to roam,
I pray Thee, Lord, through Christ Thy Son,
  To bring me safely home.

19. DURING A JOURNEY.

PSALM CXXXIX. 9, 10.

JEHOVAH! though I'm far from home,
  I'm never far from Thee.
How far soever I may roam,
  Thou still surroundest me.
Thou present art, whichever way
  The weary traveller goes,
To strengthen him for toil by day,
  By night to send repose.

My own dear home I leave behind,
  Entrusted to my God,
And forth proceed with cheerful mind,
  At duty's call, abroad.
Through Thee my home with joy o'erflows;
  And this I now forego.
But Thou canst joy to me disclose
  In every scene below.

My fathers' God Thou wast of old,
  And now be also mine;
With heavenly aids my house uphold,
  And own my household Thine.

And soon, my God, may we in love
  And comfort meet again;
And dwell at last with Christ above,
  Where bliss doth ever reign.

20. AFTER A JOURNEY.

PSALM CXXI. 8.

JEHOVAH! Thou art everywhere
  A present God to me.
Afar I've journeyed, still I've there
  Been safe upheld by Thee.
As walls to stay Thy folk's alarms
  Around Thy Zion rose,
So round me were Thy mighty arms,
  That warded off my foes.

From stumbling Thou hast kept my feet,
  From death hast saved my soul;
And still art Thou my sure Retreat
  When tempests round me roll.
Where'er I am I fear no ill,
  From Thee I'm ne'er exiled;
My fathers' God before, Thou still
  Acknowledgest his child.

To home, beneath Thy gracious smile,
  In safety I return,—
An earthly home, where but a while
  I will with Thee sojourn.

For, pilgrim still, not long I stay;
  My home's on high, and there,
Whence never more shall wanderer stray,
  Does Christ that home prepare.

21. IN BEHALF OF RELATIVES ON A JOURNEY.

GENESIS XLVIII. 21.

JEHOVAH! guard my friends, I pray,
  Where'er their journey lies;
And o'er them be, by night, by day,
  Thine ever wakeful eyes.
Around there's peril everywhere,
  If Thou art not at hand:
No human power, no skill, no care,
  Can every foe withstand.

O Thou, at whose command of old
  To view did nature rise,
Do Thou each beauteous scene unfold
  To their admiring eyes.
And grant them still with joy to find,
  In nature's beauteous frame,
How fair Thou art, the mighty Mind
  From whom all beauty came.

Attend them, Lord, in every scene;
  Afar let sickness flee.
Where'er they are, let skies serene
  And healthsome airs still be.

Yea, stablish Thou their health and strength,
Thou Source of life to men;
And bring them safely home at length,
To give us joy again.

22. OUR FINAL HOME.

PHILIPPIANS III. 20.

IF, while afar and near on earth we roam,
Our hearts be fixed on heaven, the Christian's home,
In heaven at last we'll all our journeys end,
And life thenceforward with our Saviour spend.

This very Saviour, Christ, the Friend of men,
To seek and save us will descend again,
And take us hence; and then no coming day
Will ever see or heart or foot astray.

As citizens of heaven for evermore,
With them who heaven's almighty King adore,
On heaven's high work we then shall wait, and raise
With gladsome voice the eternal song of praise.

23. GOD THE SHEPHERD OF HIS PEOPLE.

A PARAPHRASE OF PSALM XXIII. 1–3.

JEHOVAH'S my Shepherd! nor danger nor need
Shall I, as I pass through this wilderness, fear.
His flock in the presence of th' en'my He'll feed,
And the wild arid desert with pastures He'll cheer.

He speaks, and forthwith it is verdure around,
  And down in the greenest of pasture I lie;
When drought from the firmament parches the ground,
  With streamlets and fountains He gladdens my eye.

When faileth my strength, He revives me again,
  And bringeth me back if I e'er go astray;
And if I'm assail'd by the violence of men,
  The assault He repelleth, and cleareth my way.

Great Shepherd of spirits, who diedst of old,
  From death and destruction to rescue Thy sheep,
Oh take me at last to the heavenly fold,
  And there, 'mong Thine angels, for ever me keep.

Yea, Thou as a Lamb, to atone for man's sin,
  Even Thou wast Thyself as a sacrifice slain;
And then 'twas Thy glory for sinners to win
  A life freed for ever from sorrow and pain.

Thou diedst, but now Thou art ever alive;
  Nor death nor affliction shall enter the sky;
And there, from Thyself, shall Thy people derive,
  Of life and of bliss, an unfailing supply.

24. GOD, HIS PEOPLE'S GUIDE THROUGH THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

PSALM XXIII. 4.

I LEAVE the world. Ye scenes of life, adieu.
My path is now through death's dark lonesome vale.
Another world will soon be full in view,
Where foes no more the souls of men assail.

My flesh and spirit fail. In ruins now
This feeble frame, the outer man, will fall.
Soon, O my spirit, free at last, shalt thou
Escape from flesh, and own no earthly thrall.

O Thou, whose pow'r through ev'ry world extends,
Through heav'n and earth, and death's obscure domain,
Be Thou my Guide; for darkness now descends,
And round about me fears and terrors reign.

Display Thy sceptre, O Eternal King,
O'erawe the foe, repress th' assailant's ire.
From death, at last, take Thou away the sting;
At last, let sin and guilt and woe expire.

Farewell, my kindred, I go on before.
The shadowy vale will soon by you be trod.
Henceforth be dead to sin; and more and more
Let life, while life endures, be lived to God.

All flesh must die. The world itself at last
  Will sink in ruins, 'neath the weight of years.
But ever stands Thy word, Jehovah, fast,
  And he who now in truth Thy word reveres.

25. GOD THE SOURCE OF ALL TEMPORAL COMFORTS.

A PARAPHRASE OF PSALM XXIII. 5, 6.

HOW vast are Thy treasures, Omnipotent King!
  What stores does Thy bounty disclose!
How rich, O Jehovah, how plenteous the spring,
  Whence pleasure eternally flows!

Thy riches, O generous Master, afford
  Abundance for every guest;
And still, O my God, in a plentiful board,
  To me is Thy bounty express'd.

Though round me I see a profusion of woes,
  And en'mies their envy declare,
Yet dost Thou, in spite and in presence of foes,
  A table before me prepare.

Thou robest my body in goodly attire,
  With perfumes anointest my head;
My cup overflows, O munificent Sire,
  Nor want in my house do I dread.

And surely, O kind, O beneficent Lord,
Thy goodness will follow me still;
And still in Thy house I'll Thy mercy record,
And Thou'lt be my refuge from ill.

26. IN THE PROSPECT OF SICKNESS.

I'M safe against th' assault of death,
If God the foe withstands.
I live, or render up my breath,
As God from heav'n commands.

Beneath His shelter safe I've been
While thousands round me died;
Yea, safe myself, I death have seen,
And woe on every side.

To me, Jehovah, Mighty God,
Be safety still Thy boon,
From all the plagues that walk abroad,
At night or fiery noon.

Do Thou my life and strength sustain,
And far away from me,
Let pestilence and all the train
Of fell diseases flee.

And while the bloom of ruddy health
Upon my cheek still glows,

Bestow upon my soul that wealth
  Which from Thy fulness flows.

O make me wise and strong within;
  Yea, strong to do what's good;
And daily, more and more, be sin,
  The inner plague, subdued.

27. IN SICKNESS.

I OWN Thy sov'reignty, Almighty God,
  And bend submissive 'neath Thy chast'ning rod.
My sins offend Thee, Lord; and hence I bear
The kind reproofs which speak a Father's care.

Thou chast'nest man for sin; at Thy rebuke,
He pines away, and mourns his alter'd look.
Thy wrath consumes him; and he feels the woe
Which ev'n on earth do sinners undergo.

While sickness lasts, and sorrow clouds my face,
Do Thou refresh my soul with heavenly grace;
Let fleshly pains the inner man refine,
And sin at last my heart to Thee resign.

O rather, Gracious God, chastise me now,
While time and life amendment yet allow,
Than 'midst the tribulation and dismay
To which they haste who will not know Thy way.

O show me, Lord, for what Thou now with me
Contendest thus; and ope my eyes to see
Wherein I've been seduced to leave Thy way;
For blind I am, and lost, and far astray.

Through Christ, the Great Physician, now on high,
Who loved us so as in our room to die,
O grant a cure, restore my former peace,
And make both sin and sickness now to cease.

Let life with ills and woes unnumber'd teem;
Out of them all wilt Thou Thy saints redeem;
Thy wrath is short, their tears endure a night,
And joy again returns with morning light.

Then, O my soul, why art thou thus dismay'd?
Do doubts assail thee of Jehovah's aid?
Nay; trust in Him; the path of sin eschew;
For He can still my face with health renew.

28. AFTER RECOVERY.

TO Thee, Almighty God, the voice of praise,
The tribute of a grateful heart I raise;
And gladly own that 'tis to Thee I owe
Returning health and lengthen'd life below.

Disease drew near, unseen by mortal eye,
With treacherous art the work of death to ply;
I felt my weakness, found all aids did fail
Save Thine, which only in our straits avail.

Thou hadst compassion, Lord, Thy heav'nly aid
Dislodged the foe that on my vitals prey'd ;
Pain fled apace, and languor then no more
His heavy hand upon my spirits bore.

'Tis joy again ; now blithesome roll the hours ;
Anew does health impart her wonted pow'rs ;
Now duty bids me toil, and calls for zeal,
That joy on earth may end in heav'nly weal.

O Thou, my best Physician, who alone
To songs of joy canst change the mourner's groan,
Do Thou in mercy still my life sustain,
And far away remove disease and pain.

Each morn I rise, each eve I go to rest,
Let me be still with Thy protection bless'd ;
Behold me still with kind benignant eyes,
And send me succour as my wants arise.

But chiefly save, O God, my soul from sin ;
'Tis this disease that blights the man within.
I'm weak in th' inner man. O fence me here,
O give me grace, and make its fruit appear.

While life endures, let life be given to Thee ;
When cometh death, let death by Thy decree
Translate me thither, where at last disease
Shall never more on soul or body seize.

29. THE BENEFIT OF SICKNESS.

HEBREWS XII. 10.

BY sickness good is often wrought
In men against their will;
And they through fleshly pain are brought
To hate the thoughts of ill.

When God affects the outward man,
And thus the soul subdues,
At leisure then we're forced to scan
Our former ways and views.

The eyes are open'd then, and light
Illumes the darksome mine;
And groping then no more in night,
He sees, who once was blind.

If Thou constrain me here, the cross,
O gracious God, to bear;
Let earthly pain and worldly loss
My soul for heav'n prepare.

30. GOD'S FATHERLY CHASTENINGS.

HEBREWS XII. 7.

WE'RE all in the hands of a merciful God;
Whatever is best for us, that He bestows.
In love, not in anger, He lifteth the rod,
And still with a Father's affection He glows.

The path, then, of dutiful child'ren is ours,
  To bow to the rod of our merciful Sire;
And looking still onwards to happier hours,
  To show that His favour is all our desire.

'Tis thus, that as sons and as daughters, we're own'd,
  Of glory with Christ, acknowledged the heirs;
And hope that on high where our Brother's enthroned,
  For us He a crown and a garland prepares.

He too, as a Son, what is suffering, knows;
  And now does He reign with His Father on high;
And still ere we reach Him, thro' troubles and woes,
  As erst to Himself, does our pilgrimage lie.

31. THE RETURN OF JOY.

PSALM XXX. 5.

THE storm is past, the clouds are fled;
  Now shines the orb of day:
Again is Nature round me spread
  In beauty's bright array.

And now are happier hours my share;
  Now bounds my heart with joy;
And doubts and fears, and wasting care,
  No more my thoughts employ.

Again, Jehovah, does Thy face
  In mercy shine on me;

And, still, how rich and sweet Thy grace
  Exultingly I see.

Thy favour, Gracious God, is life;
  Yea, life now giv'n again,
With peace and joy, afar from strife,
  From pride and wrath of men.

A calm pervades my inmost heart,
  And all is joy around;
And there, where erst were pain and smart,
  Do peace and hope abound.

Thou dost, O Source of health, at length
  My countenance renew;
Dost send me back my wonted strength,
  And light my eye anew.

And forth, my God, to Thee in mirth
  I pour a song of praise,
And tune my heart, while still on earth,
  To heav'n's sublimer lays.

And still, with sweeter note, I'll strive
  To hallow life below,
Till everlasting life arrive,
  And praise unceasing flow.

32. THE TIME OF HEALTH.

PSALM XLII. 11.

ALTHOUGH disease and woe are rife,
  Almighty God, around,
Yet still from Heav'n to me is life
  With health and safety crown'd.
Accept my thanks, and grant me so
  My health and strength to prize,
As creatures ought who toil below,
  Through Christ to gain the skies.

In time of health, ne'er let a deed
  Be made my boast or pride:
Let word ne'er from my lips proceed,
  Nor thought within reside,
But such as may—when death draws nigh,
  And sin's mask is removed,
And dim no more is reason's eye—
  By conscience be approved.

Whatever's lovely, honest, pure,
  Whatever's just and true,
Let that alone my heart allure;
  Be that what I pursue.
And let my strength for Christ be spent
  In work to which He calls,
While yet 'tis day, ere night prevent,
  And darkness round me falls,—

Ev'n shades of death; for death his reign
  Will soon o'er all extend,
And all within his drear domain
  Their schemes and toil must end.
His mandate soon will me arrest;
  And when it comes, may I,
As when I seek my nightly rest,
  Adown in comfort lie.

33. THE TIME OF TROUBLE.

PSALM XLIII. 5.

JEHOVAH, calm my labouring breast;
  Bid all its tumults cease;
And send my soul its former rest,
  Its wonted joy and peace.
Drive cares and fears and doubts away;
  Control each anxious thought;
And under reason's rightful sway
  Be every passion brought.

Subdue my wishes, Lord, to Thine;
  Be still my trust in Thee;
In all that cometh, be it mine
  Thy goodness still to see.
Let all events of woe or weal,
  Together work for good,
Until at last I inly feel
  That ev'ry pow'r's renew'd.

Thou, O Jehovah, knowest best
  Of what I stand in need,
And whether, what I most request,
  To good or ill may lead.
Then, O my soul, in God confide;
  And, making Him thy stay,
Be thou no more, whate'er betide,
  To wasting fears a prey.

34. THE LOSS OF FRIENDS.

PSALM LXXXVIII. 18.

THOU gavest, O my God, before:
  Thou takest now away.
'Tis mine—when I the loan restore—
  My thanks to Thee to pay.
Although the much-loved object hence
  Is gone afar from me,
Behind remains a lively sense
  Of what I owe to Thee.

Lo! memory finds a sweet employ
  In calling up the past:
And hoping still for future joy,
  All cares on Thee I cast.
With Thee the source of joy is still
  As copious as of old;
Far happier scenes, if 'tis Thy will,
  Thou canst for me unfold.

Let friends, let kindred now depart,
  And leave me here behind;
O help Thou me, the parting smart,
  To bear with patient mind.
And when at length shall come the day
  Of my departure too,
O grant that then, with them, I may
  Partake of bliss anew.

35. THE CHRISTIAN'S COMFORT.

FIRST THESSALONIANS IV. 13.

O WEEP not, Christian, as they weep, who ne'er
  From childhood's years have God or Jesus known:
For thou hast known them both; and whatsoe'er
  For thee's appointed, still thou God must own.

Much has thy Heav'nly Father giv'n to thee;
  With gracious face He oft on thee has smiled;
Though now He frown, His smile thou still may'st see,
  And still 'tis thine to act the duteous child.

Then cease to mourn; nay, lift the grateful voice;
  Her sweetest notes of praise let music swell.
Though clouds surround Thy God, yet still rejoice,
  That love and mercy with Him ever dwell.

36. SYMPATHY.

ROMANS XII. 15.

MY life, my substance, friends and kin,
My health and peace of mind,
And ev'ry gift without, within,
That gladdens human kind;
The whole from Thee, Jehovah, came,
And still the whole are Thine;
And when Thine own Thou dost reclaim,
The whole I straight resign.

O grant me, Lord, to mind aright,
Amidst my present joy,
How soon all hope Thou mayest blight,—
How soon all peace destroy.
Let th' ills of others ever show
What may myself await;
Disease and want, and mental woe,
Another's fraud and hate.

'Tis better, Lord, that I should go
To weep with those who weep,
Than flee from scenes of human woe,
A festal day to keep.
O grant me so to sympathize,
And feel another's pain,
That others, if Thou me chastise,
May comfort me again.

And whatsoever be the load
  Which I am doom'd to bear,
Uphold Thou me; illume my road;
  And drive away despair.
Let kindly Christian aids in death
  Around my couch attend;
And Thou, ere goeth forth my breath,
  To save my soul descend.

37. THE VICISSITUDES OF LIFE.

ECCLESIASTES III. 1, 2, 3.

LET morn in all her glory rise,
  Yet ere the day be done,
May clouds and storms invade the skies,
  And dim the setting sun.

So far does sickness ne'er depart,
  But back it comes again;
No pleasure ever glads the heart,
  But soon may end in pain.

There's nought but change; 'tis night, 'tis day;
  Now flows, now ebbs the wave;
And he who in a cradle lay,
  Ere long will need a grave.

Not long we live; and while alive,
  We live a chequer'd life;

And joy and grief for mast'ry strive,
  Till death decides the strife.

Eternal God, Thou dwellest far
  Beyond all pain and woe;
With thee, on high, no discords jar,
  Such as we hear below.

Do Thou, while all around is change,
  Confirm my soul within,
And grant me life beyond the range
  Of death and woe and sin.

38. GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

PSALM CXIX. 91.

THE world from Thee, Jehovah, came,
  And still on Thee depends;
And still throughout her mighty frame,
  Thy secret pow'r extends.

The spheres, as when their course began,
  Around, in order, roll;
Nor less dost Thou, the affairs of man,
  Than erst Thou didst control.

Unseen Thyself, Thou workest here,
  Around, below, on high;

Thou willest, and the scenes appear,
  Which glad or grieve the eye.

So rolls the year, so life proceeds,
  As Thou art pleased t'ordain;
Thy plenty, Lord, supplies my needs,
  Thy cares my life sustain.

Whatever scenes the morrow's sun
  Unfolds before my eye,
May all be welcome, every one,
  As coming from on high.

Yea, whether I rejoice or grieve,
  Whate'er events I see;
The whole, may I in faith receive,
  As messengers from Thee.

Within, if lurks a stubborn thought,
  Do Thou the thought subdue;
Let reason, fancy, will, be brought
  To own their Lord anew.

And still, while here a place is mine,
  O grant, Almighty Lord,
That all my wishes may with Thine,
  And Thy commands, accord.

39. CORRUPTION OF HUMAN NATURE.

JOB XXV. 2, 6.

TO God dominion appertains,
And reverential fear;
Supreme o'er all He lives and reigns
Above the starry sphere.

There all is peace; and who can say
How vast His armies are?
His orbs illume with searching ray
The depths of space afar.

Ah! how shall man His wrath endure,
When comes the day of doom?
Man, woman's child, corrupt, impure,—
A rebel from the womb.

Behold the moon: she fades away,
And fails the night to cheer.
In God's own light, no star, no ray
Of brightest orb is clear.

Let God their brightest radiance scan,
Impure they all are found:
Not less impure, the soul of man
Effuses ill around.

Man, Adam's son, is mean and vile,
  An abject thing by birth:
A worm that crawls about a while,
  Then mingles with the earth.

40. REPENTANCE.

ZECHARIAH XII. 10, 11, 12.

JEHOVAH, pour Thy Spirit down
  On all Thy folk below:
O'er all the land, through every town,
  Let lamentation flow.

In every house, in every heart,
  Do Thou repentance wake;
Let husband, wife, and child, apart,
  Themselves to Thee betake.

Their sins let ev'ry household mourn,
  As if by sudden doom
An only son away were borne,
  To fill an early tomb.

Let every sinner weep and wail,
  Like Judah, when of yore,
To Zion from Megiddo's vale,
  Her dying king she bore.

Let th' eye of faith with tears o'erflow
For Christ, her dying Lord;
And sin, the cause of all His woe,
Be more and more abhorr'd.

41. ADVERSITY THE REMEMBRANCER OF SIN.

JEREMIAH II. 12, 13, 19.

BE shock'd, O heaven! Jehovah says:
My folk two evil things have done.
Ah! perverse race! they've left My ways,
And in the paths of sin they run.
Jehovah's fountain they forsake,—
Those living streams which ever flow,—
And cisterns for themselves they make,
Wherein they ne'er shall water know.

At last, when comes My vengeful day,
Shall sin itself My folk chastise;
Remorse shall then upon them prey,
And all their guilt before them rise.
And they, tho' scourged and taught by woe,
Shall learn that 'tis an evil thing
To leave their God, and make a foe
Of Him who is their Lord and King.

42. THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN'S HEART.

JEREMIAH XVII. 5–10, 13, 14.

ACCURS'D is he who puts his trust in man,
And leans upon an arm of flesh for aid;
And scorning to regard Jehovah's ban,
From duty flies, and lives a renegade.

He's like a blasted tree, which, far away,
Stands in the desert 'neath a sultry sky,
Nor knows the nourishment which genial day
And dewy night, for life and growth, supply.

Bless'd is the man who puts his trust in God,—
The living God,—his only certain stay;
His hope, his shield, his refuge here, abroad,
And evermore, come good or evil day.

He's like the tree which near the streamlet grows,
And drinks refreshment by its spreading root;
Nor droops, however fiercely summer glows,
Nor balks our hopes when comes the time of fruit.

Alas! how wicked is the human heart,
Deceitful, stubborn, heedless of its sin;
Its thoughts, devices, wishes, who can scan,
Or trace its passions, as they work within?

I, says Jehovah's Spirit, search the heart;
I try the reins, and what's therein I know.

And soon on all, as now they act their part,
  A righteous retribution I'll bestow.

Confounded, O Jehovah, all shall be
  Who, rebel-like, from Thee to idols go—
From Thee, the Fountain; for it is from Thee
  That living waters to Thy people flow.

43. NEGLECTED BLESSINGS WITHDRAWN.

ISAIAH V. 1–7.

A VINEYARD on a fruitful hill
  God fenced against external ill,
  And out the stones He cast.
A vine He planted, which afar,
Whatever noble vines there are,
  All other vines surpass'd.

Forthwith the joyous press appear'd,
The tower aloft its top uprear'd,
  The scene securely smiled.
The vintage came; He look'd for fruit
Which should uphold the vine's repute,
  But, lo! the grapes were wild.

O men of Judah, judge, I pray,
Between Me and My vine, and say
  What more could I have done?

Why look'd I when the year declined,
That I delicious fruit should find,
  And found that there was none?

My vineyard waste again I'll lay;
Its fence, its wall, I'll take away;
  I'll prune My vine no more.
I'll tread it down, withhold My rain,
Uprear the thorn, and th' ancient reign
  Of barrenness restore.

Thou art, O Israel, the vine;
And that delightsome land of Thine
  The vineyard of your God.
He look'd for righteousness; but, lo!
He sees deceit and fraud and woe,
  And dire oppression's rod.

44. THE PENITENT'S RETURN.

JEREMIAH III. 21–25.

A VOICE upon the plain is heard,
  Lo! Israel weeps and mourns and prays;
For far he from his God hath err'd,
  And gone astray in devious ways.
Return! Jehovah says to me,
  Return, O disobedient folk!
From all your guilt I'll set you free,
  And ease you of your galling yoke.

Jehovah, we return; for Thou
  Art God alone; yea, all our stay:
We now the idols disavow,
  Which blind and lead our souls astray.
Our sins we now account our shame:
  They've swallow'd up our substance here,—
The wealth that from our fathers came,
  And all that to ourselves is dear.

With shame and grief we're overthrown;
  Before our God we prostrate lie;
For much we've err'd, and scorn'd to own
  The fear of judgments from on high.
Our fathers and ourselves have err'd:
  From youth ev'n till this day we've stray'd;
Thou spakest, but Thou wast not heard;
  Commandedst, but wast not obey'd.

45. WISDOM.

JOB XXVIII. 12–16, 20, 23–26, 28.

SAY, 'Where is wisdom?' Man in vain
  Has sought her home to see.
Depths of the earth and mighty main
  All say, 'She's not with me.'
She's far beyond the reach of gold—
  Of gold however fine;
Her worth can ne'er in gems be told,
  However bright they shine.

Whence then is wisdom? where's her throne?
  The place where she resides?
The whole to Him is clearly known,
  From whom no distance hides;—
He sees to th' utmost verge of earth,
  And through the vault on high;
The air He weighed at nature's birth,
  And hung beneath the sky.

Forth from His stores the ocean flow'd,
  And roll'd against the shore;
He gave the rain its laws, and show'd
  The thunder where to roar.
'*The fear of God is wisdom*,' cries
  A voice from th' azure sky;
''*Tis wisdom in Jehovah's eyes*
  Afar from sin to fly.'

46. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE HIGHEST ATTAINMENT.

JEREMIAH IX. 23, 24.

THUS speaks Jehovah: Let the wise no more
  Their wisdom vaunt, nor brag of earthly lore.
Their might no longer let the mighty boast;
Nor yet a kingdom its unnumber'd host.
Nor let the wealthy glory in their wealth,
Nor yet the strong and healthy in their health.

Let him who glories glory but in this:
That he has sought and found the source of bliss;
Yea, that he understands and knows the God
Who o'er the nations sways a righteous rod,—
The God Jehovah, who, in what is right,
And true, and lovely, has His sole delight.

47. JEHOVAH IS GOD.

EXODUS XV. 2, 11.

JEHOVAH is my strength, my stay;
  Jehovah is my song;
His eyes are o'er me night and day,
  And through His might I'm strong.
My life, salvation, joy, is He:
  His gifts His goodness tell.
To Him, my rock, my fort, I flee,
  And safe with Him I dwell.

He is my God; around I'll fence
  And purify my heart,
To be Jehovah's temple, whence
  May He ne'er more depart.
My God He is, my fathers' God;
  His name I'll aye exalt;
And high shall soar my soul in laud
  Above the starry vault.

Jehovah, who is like to Thee,
  In wisdom, power, or love?

To whom shall creatures bend the knee,
  In earth or heaven above?
To Thee, and none but Thee; for Thou
  Art God and Lord alone;
And Thee, my God, I now avow,
  And Thee will ever own.

48. SINAI AND ZION.

HEBREWS XII. 18–22.

JEHOVAH, how Thy terrors smite
  The sinner's heart with dire affright!
A broken law and threaten'd woe
Distract him all his life below.

But Thou, Jehovah, out of heav'n
To men hast news of pardon giv'n;
And Christ, who brought us down the news,
The work of mercy still pursues.

Thine ancient people heard and saw
What curse attends a broken law;
And now, in Christ's benignant reign,
All blessings are proclaim'd again.

We turn from Sinai's rugged form,
From fire and cloud and raging storm,
To Zion hill, where all's serene,
And grace and mercy glad the scene.

From sin, from woe, O Christ! I flee;
From sin, from woe, I come to Thee:
Do Thou receive me; grant me peace,
And bid both sin and sorrow cease.

O take possession of my heart;
Let ne'er Thy grace from me depart;
And when expires my life below,
New life do Thou in heav'n bestow.

49. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

JOHN I. 17.

FROM Sinai, God His law through Moses spoke,
'Mid storm and thunder, to His ancient folk;
But unto us, in these the latter days,
A milder message He, through Christ, conveys—
Through Christ His Son, Eternal and Divine,
In whom the glories of the Father shine.

In Sinai's broken law our doom we see,
Nor know we whither from the doom to flee;
But Christ appears, and on our darksome way
He pours the radiance of celestial day,
Refines the vision of the mental eye,
And shows th' abodes of endless life on high.

O Jesus, Thou a song of sweetest strain
Didst teach Thy folk to sing when Thou wast slain;—
How grace and truth and mercy came by Thee;
Yea, how on high was raised th' accursed tree,

That dying there Thou mightest death o'erthrow,
Atone for sin, and banish human woe.

To Thee, O Saviour! God's Eternal Son,
Who erst from death the conquest for us won,—
And when unclean and sunk in guilt we lay,
Wash'd in His precious blood our sins away,—
Be endless praise and adoration paid,
And all His mandates everywhere obey'd.

Thou in the grave wast laid; the grave's first-born,
Thou from its gloom didst rise with early morn.
Thou once wast dead, but now Thou art alive;
No foe henceforth can Thee of life deprive;
For now dost Thou again in glory dwell,
Rule o'er the grave, and bear the keys of hell.

The whole creation with Thy victory rings;
Through Thee the Father owns us priests and kings;
And here on earth uniting with the choir,
Whose song in heav'n sublimer thoughts inspire,
We hail Thee, Lord Almighty, First and Last,
The same in coming ages as in past.

50. HOSANNA.

MATTHEW XXI. 9.

HOSANNA to David's most glorious Son!
Spread Olivet's pathway with branches of palms;
Remember what wonders your Monarch has done,
And hail His appearance with music and psalms.

Hosanna to David's victorious Son!
  The Conqueror's way with your garments bestrew;
In honour of Him who salvation hath won,
  Again let your anthems and psalmody flow.

Hosanna to Jesus! yea, blessed be He
  Who comes in the name of Jehovah to men;
From bondage and insult His people to free,
  And rear up the kingdom of David again.

Hosanna to Jesus! hosanna on high,
  From angels as well as from mortals below!
Let all, whatsoe'er be their dignities, vie
  In yielding the homage which all of us owe.

To Jesus let children, while still they are young,
  Hosanna along with their parents upraise.
Yea, still, by us all, let hosanna be sung
  To Jesus, our Sovereign, the theme of our praise!

51. JESUS BEWAILS THE STUBBORNNESS AND DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

LUKE XIX. 41.

JERUSALEM'S nigh, and the multitudes strew
  The road with their garments at Jesus' approach;
He look'd on the city, and thought of its woe,
  And wept as He utter'd the mournful reproach.

Jerusalem, O that thou truly hadst known
  The things which belong to thy peace and thy weal;
And own'd, ere the moments of mercy were flown,
  The words which a heavenly kingdom reveal.

The day when thou might'st have been saved is now past;
  Thy clos'd ears shall hear no more offers of peace;
Thou'lt see no more tokens of love, for at last
  God's forbearance with thee, O doom'd city, must cease.

The day is approaching when th' enemy round
  Shall muster his legions against thee from far,
And casting his trench, and upraising his mound,
  He'll fiercely assail thee with engines of war.

Yea thee and thy children around he'll enclose;
  At thy temple his firebrands he'll impiously fling;
And low as thou wast ere thy bulwarks arose,
  Thou'lt lie 'neath the foe, God, to waste thee, shall bring.

The whole he'll upturn, overthrow and disperse,
  No more shall one stone on another be left;
As thou hast been thankless, rebellious, perverse,
  So, now, of thy glory shalt thou be bereft.

52. LAMENTATION OF JESUS OVER THE IMPENITENCE OF THE JEWS.

MATTHEW XXIII. 37.

O THOU who rejectest the message of grace,
And stonest and slayest the prophets of God;
Thou Salem, thy crimes shalt acknowledge apace,
In carnage at home and in exile abroad.

How often, O Salem! thy children would I
Have gather'd together and shelter'd from woe;
Yea, ev'n as a hen does, when danger is nigh,
To shelter her brood from the hovering foe.

But, children of Salem, ye would not be saved;
And now of your slaughter is coming the day;
Your Temple's abandon'd, your country's enslaved;
And fire and the sword shall soon make them a prey.

Your Temple, which erst, as Jehovah's was known,
And where too of old did His glory reside,
Is left to yourselves; with yourselves is o'erthrown,
And falls with yourselves for your envy and pride.

No more shall ye see Me, till feeling your yoke,
The yoke of your sins, ye, in rapture exclaim:
O bless'd is the Prophet, who cometh His folk
To rescue from thraldom, in God's mighty name!

53. CHRIST'S APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.

LUKE XXIII. 28.

O WEEP not, ye daughters of Salem, for Me;
But weep for yourselves and your children at home;
Ere long ye'll from Salem be eager to flee,
Yea, far from your Salem, as exiles to roam.

Your Salem, with famine and carnage and gore,
As now with transgression, shall soon be defiled;
And, 'bless'd,' 'twill be said, 'is the womb that ne'er bore,
'And breasts that ne'er suckled and nourished a child.'

'Ye mountains, O fall on us!' then ye shall cry;
'O'erwhelm us, ye rocks, and afford us a tomb!
Lo! Salem's beleauger'd; no succour is nigh,
And exile, or bondage, or death is our doom.'

If fire is now scorching the flourishing tree,
How fiercely it then will the wither'd devour!
Then weep not, O daughters of Salem, for Me,
But think of your sins and the enemy's power.

54. THE OVERTHROW OF JERUSALEM AND THE DISPERSION OF THE JEWS.

LUKE XXI. 24.

ALAS! for the exiles of Abraham's race,
They now, their Jehovah, 'mong strangers adore;
And nought can the bitter remembrance efface,
Of glory that once was, but now is no more.

Judea was yours, and ye worshipp'd your God
In Zion's sublime and magnificent dome;
Now country ye've none; and ye wander abroad,
And know not or Zion or Temple or home.

Your country's a desert; your tow'rs are o'erthrown;
A curse has alighted on hill and on dale;
With briars and thistles the fields are o'ergrown,
And the olive and vine of their fruitfulness fail.

The land is a stranger's; nor merely it owns
The rod of the stranger who keeps it from you;
'Neath alien spoilers it bleeds and it groans;
And rapine unpunish'd is ever in view.

Ungrateful ye've been, and have wander'd from God,
And hence have your woes and calamities sprung;
And bearing the stripes of His chastening rod,
Your hearts, in your exile, with anguish are wrung.

But anguish, and insult, and exile, shall cease,
Your souls will repent and your God will forgive :
And coming to Zion, thenceforward in peace
Ye 'neath the Messiah's dominion will live.

55. JESUS COMFORTING HIS DISCIPLES AT THE LAST PASCHAL SUPPER.

JOHN XIV. 1, 2, 3.

LO! supper is ended; and Jesus has shown
His death in the symbols of bread and of wine:
The news have a gloom o'er His followers thrown,
And sorely their hearts they to sorrow resign.

Be troubled, said Jesus, be troubled no more,
Let sorrow no longer your spirits pervade :
Still trust in your God as ye've trusted before ;
Trust also in Me your Messiah for aid.

On high, in the house of My Father afar,
Where none save the pure and the lowly reside,
Unperishing mansions in plenty there are,
Yea, mansions which I for My people provide.

I thither am going, and there I'll prepare
A mansion for you, and for all that are Mine :
Thence shall I return to take you to share
Heav'n's glory with Me, and its honours divine.

For ever I live, and for ever shall ye,
  Because of the life that's eternally Mine:
Where I am, there also ye ever shall be,
  And bright like the stars of the firmament shine.

56. THE GREAT LOVE OF JESUS.

JOHN XV. 12.

REMEMBER My precept, said Jesus, that ye
  Shall love one another, as I have lov'd you:
And know that a greater love never can be,
  Than what I, in dying, exhibit to view.

If truly ye love Me, obey My command:
  This test of allegiance, to prove you, I leave.
When stedfast in faith and in duty ye stand,
  Ye then are My friends, and My doctrine receive.

If, making the words of My gospel your care,
  Ye thus shall your lives to My wishes resign,
Your mutual love will to mortals declare
  That ye are sincerely disciples of Mine.

My Father will love you: from heaven's high dome,
  With gifts He'll descend, and abide with you here.
He now, with His graces, will hallow your home,
  And ye in His heaven hereafter appear.

57. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

MATTHEW XXVIII. 2–6.

AN earthquake the rocks of Jerusalem rends,
And forth from Jehovah an angel descends,
To wait upon Christ, who, in spite of the Jew,
To life and to glory is rising anew.

The seal and the stone at the tomb are in vain;
No watch can avail when Christ rises again:
At touch of the angel the seal is dissolv'd,
And back, too, the stone from the portal's revolv'd.

The angel in majesty sits on the stone,
And round him the glory of heaven is thrown:
Like light'ning and flame does his countenance glow,
And o'er his apparel's the brightness of snow.

At sight of this glory, the Jewish watch seem'd
As smitten by death, soon as on them it gleam'd:
Thus ever does Zion's King smite with His rod
All plotters against the Anointed of God.

Ere night has withdrawn all her darkness and gloom,
The women, too, anxiously visit the tomb;
But thoughts of a further embalming are vain,
For Jesus is risen and living again.

And forthwith, when, full of affrightment and awe,
An angel instead of their Master they saw,

The angel saluted them: Be not afraid,
Here Jesus ye seek in the regions of shade:

But here He is not: for though dead and entomb'd,
To dust and corruption He never was doom'd;
And now from the tomb, where in darkness He lay,
He's risen with life, and gone forth into day.

58. CHRIST'S CHARGE TO HIS DISCIPLES.

MATTHEW XXVIII. 18–20.

THE prophets foretold that Messiah should die,
And rise from the dead and ascend to the sky,
And 'mong every people repentance be taught,
And pardon for sins both of deed and of thought.

My ministry, O My disciples, ye've seen;
Of what I have done ye have witnesses been:
My warnings, rebukes, and instructions ye know,
And wherefore to death I submitted below.

Go, therefore, and give, as from Me ye receive;
Go, preach, that the nations may hear and believe,
Till knowledge of God's love the earth overflow,
And all shall My Name and My sacrifice know.

Go, teach and baptize in the name of the THREE,
Whose glory's the same, and for ever will be:

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit, who all
Are one in the saving of sinners from thrall.

Go, teach and exhort, and command them to do
The things that I've taught and deliver'd to you;
Alike to believe in My Father and Me,
To cleave unto good, and from evil to flee.

And, lo, I am with you wherever ye go,
To aid you with counsel, and silence the foe;
Through regions of darkness to open your way,
And stablish with wonders whatever ye say.

59. THE COMING OF CHRIST AT THE LAST DAY.

I THESSALONIANS IV. 16.

HOSANNA in triumph to Jesus we sing—
To Jesus, our mighty and merciful King,
Who cometh His people to save.
Hereafter will Jesus, our Monarch, descend,
To finish His triumph, and bring to an end
The bondage of sin and the grave.

On clouds from the heavens will Jesus descend;
The light'nings will flash, and the thunders will rend
All nature's magnificent frame.
The mighty creation below and on high,
The earth and the air, and the ocean and sky,
Shall all be envelop'd in flame.

Adown from the heaven, in glory's attire,
The host of His Father, the heavenly choir,
    Around Him with homage attend ;
And, lo ! 'bove the roar of the tempest, a shout
From thousands of angels around and throughout
    The whole of creation extends.

Still louder a note, and more awful a strain,
The mouth of the mighty archangel again
    Diffuses all over the sky.
And, lo, at his bidding the trumpet of God,
Effusing its mightier accents abroad,
    Proclaims that Messiah is nigh.

The trumpet is heard, and its accents invade
Death's nether dominions, the regions of shade,
    And call on the sleepers to rise.
And forthwith are scatter'd the darkness and gloom
Which seem'd to have shrouded for ever the tomb,
    And seal'd up the slumberers' eyes.

As Jesus at Calvary baffled His foes,
And forthwith in triumph immortal arose,
    And went to His heavenly throne ;
So now does the tyrant his portals unbar,
And op'ning his sepulchres near and afar,
    Confess that his kingdom's o'erthrown.

Before the tribunal of Jesus appear
All ages and kindreds in awe and in fear,
    From every country and land.

The sea renders up all the dead which it holds,
No tomb its deposit from judgment withholds,
And all before Jesus shall stand.

O Jesus, do Thou our vile bodies refine,
And give them the image and likeness of Thine,
And save us from infinite woe:
For our resurrection and life are from Thee,
And earnestly now we beseech Thee, that we
With Thee into glory may go.

Thou livest, O Jesus, in glory on high,
Oh grant us that now unto sin we may die,
And live unto righteousness here;
And then, when at last we have died upon earth,
To rise by a new and a glorious birth,
To life in a heavenly sphere.

And still of our Saviour's triumph we'll sing:
O death, thou destroyer, where now is thy sting?
Where now is thy conquest, O grave?
See now what in vision the prophet beheld,
That Jesus the foe and his terrors has quell'd,
And shown Himself mighty to save.

Lo! death, by Messiah, the King's arm of might,
Is put, with his army of terrors, to flight,
The terrors which brood o'er the tomb.
O Jesus, Thou Friend and Redeemer of men,
Protect us, we humbly entreat Thee, again,
When dawneth the day of our doom.

The foe had his sting from our breach of the law,
The venom, O Christ, do Thou out of it draw;
And grant us, ere death lay us low,
More deeply to grieve for the sins that are past,
And still, while the days of our pilgrimage last,
In wisdom and goodness to grow.

60. TE DEUM.*

WE praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge that Thou,
Jehovah, alone art our Lord and our King:
To Thee does creation a worshipper bow,
To Thee her obeisance and offerings bring.

To Thee, the eternal unchangeable Sire,
Aloud do the numberless host of the sky,
Both cherubs and seraphs, a glorious choir,
Their voices exalt and unceasingly cry:

Thrice holy art Thou, O Jehovah, to whom
The armies and powers of heaven pertain:
All space do Thy glories pervade, and illume
Thy kingdom above and Thy lower domain.

The Apostles, a bright and a glorious band,
The assembly of Prophets, the Martyrs who died
For Christ and His gospel in heathendom's land,
Now laud Thee on high, and in glory reside.

* Ascribed to several bishops of the Latin Church, but supposed by some to be of Greek origin.

To Thee, as the Father Omnipotent, bows
  The Catholic Church, 'neath Thy banners arrayed;
Thy Son she confesses divine, and avows
  The Spirit of grace as her comfort and aid.

O Christ, Thou wast aye to the Father a Son;
  A King, whom the brightest of glories adorn;
And yet, that redemption for us may be won,
  Thou camest to earth, and of Mary wast born.

By Thee were the powers of death overthrown;
  By Thee, for Thy folk, was re-open'd the sky;
And risen again, at the right of the throne,
  The throne of Thy Father, Thou sittest on high.

We know that to judge us Thou comest again.
  Then help us, we pray Thee; at present unfold
The power of Thy Cross in the saving of men,
  Whom sin, Death, and Satan in slavery hold.

O save us, O bless Thine own heritage, Lord;
  Direct us, and strengthen our faith and our love;
And, rich in compassion, be pleased to record
  Our names 'mong the names of the blessed above.

Thee daily we worship, and ne'er will we cease.
  Vouchsafe that to-day we from sin may be free;
And so upon us be Thy mercy and peace,
  As trust and reliance we place upon Thee.

Jehovah! on Thee do Thy people rely;
  O let not confusion Thy people betide:
To Thee did our fathers in jeopardy cry,
  And ne'er in their need was Thy succour denied.

61. THE LITANY.

O GOD, Thou Ruler of the heavenly host;
  O mighty Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Eternal Lord, Redeemer of our race,
And Thou through whom they both impart their grace,
Have mercy on us, for we wretched are;
And dark of mind, have strayed from Thee afar.

Remember, Lord, our many sins no more;
Nor yet how oft our fathers sinned before;
Forbear Thy vengeance now, and spare the folk
Whom Jesus' blood redeemed from Satan's yoke.
Good Lord, O spare us: Q forget the past;
Nor let Thy wrath against us always last.

From sin and harm, from Satan's wiles and fate;
From pride, vainglory, envy, malice, hate;
From fornication, lust, and sensual hearts;
From craft, hypocrisy, and traitorous arts;
Good Lord, deliver us, we humbly pray,
And make us strong when comes temptation's day.

From storm and plague, from famine, treason, strife,
From thoughts that urge to take another's life;

From false opinion, schism, a stubborn mind,
And scorn of aught that Thou hast taught mankind,
Defend us, Lord, and keep us near to Thee;
And grant our life and doctrine to agree.

We Thee beseech, by Christ's mysterious birth,
By th' awful scenes through which He passed on earth,
His bloody sweat and cross, His fall, His rise,
And th' early gifts which flowed from His emprize,
That Thou wouldst save us by Thy mighty power,
In life, in death, and judgment's awful hour.

O God, enlarge and rule the Church below;
Illume her ministers, and so bestow
Thy heavenly gifts, that both by word and deed
They on to bliss Thy folk may wisely lead.
O hear our voice; O grant us this request;
And let them all, as we have asked, be bless'd.

O God, behold with Thine especial grace
Our Queen Victoria and her royal race;
Subdue her foes; uphold her right and cause;
And rule herself by Thine eternal laws.
O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let them all, as we have asked, be bless'd.

The Queen's advisers, Senators, and Lords,
Do Thou direct as with their rank accords;
And may the Magistrates the righteous cause
Uphold by means of equitable laws.

O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let them all, as we have asked, be bless'd.

O God, to all the people of the land
Vouchsafe success beneath Thy fost'ring hand:
At length let wars among Thy children cease,
And all the nations dwell in love and peace.
O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

Jehovah, bring unto Thy holy way
All them who are from Thee and Christ astray:
Upraise the fallen; strengthen them who stand,
And rid the feeble out of Satan's hand.
O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

Do Thou from heav'n to all impart relief,
That are involved in danger, want, or grief,
In pain, in sickness, childbirth, mortal throes,
In worldly loss, disease, or mental woes.
O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

O God, preserve the traveller; uphold
The helpless, weak and feeble, young and old;
The widow, orphan, prisoner, and all
Whom tyranny and dire oppression gall.
O hear our voice, and grant us this request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

O give us all of Thee to stand in awe,
To hear in love, and truly own Thy law;
And in our lives, through Thine abundant grace,
To live to Christ, and run the Christian's race.
O hear our voice, and grant us our request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

Do Thou, whose love throughout creation glows,
Forgive our sland'rers, persecutors, foes,
And turn their hearts to love; and so may we
Forgiveness show, as it is shown by Thee.
O hear our voice, and grant us our request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

O give ourselves repentance, and forgive
Wherein we've failed the life of faith to live.
Amend our lives wherein they are amiss,
And by Thy Spirit lead us up to bliss.
O hear our voice, and grant us our request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

Do Thou, Jehovah, crown the rolling year
With plenteous fruits, t' uphold our bodies here;
And while of what Thou givest we partake,
Let no excess or waste Thine ire awake.
O hear our voice, and grant us our request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

O God, our ears have heard, our sires have told,
What mighty deeds Thou didst for them of old:

O give us so to put our trust in Thee,
That we Thy mercy, like our sires, may see.
O hear our voice, and grant us our request;
And let us all, as we have ask'd, be bless'd.

62. THE CHRISTIAN'S CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ONE God I own, Jehovah is His name;
One only God, the Lord of heav'n and earth;
Who made and stablish'd Nature's mighty frame,
And gave all creatures, man and angel, birth.

One Mediator I confess and hold;
With God on high for man He intercedes:
To save His folk, He died on earth of old,
And now in heav'n His death for them He pleads.

To Him, the great Messiah, appertain
All kingdoms, thrones, dominions, might, and pow'r;
And back He'll come, amid a glorious train,
To judge the world in Nature's closing hour.

One Holy Spirit I confess and own,
The same whom God and Christ to man impart:
The source of grace, whose office 'tis alone
To strengthen, renovate, and glad the heart.

The Spirit draws, and more and more renews
All them whom Christ redeems from future wrath;
And if the sinner still his sin pursues,
He's not of Christ, nor heav'nward tends his path.

63. THE CHRISTIAN CALLED TO FOLLOW CHRIST.

MATTHEW XVI. 24.

TAKE up the Cross, says Christ, and follow Me;
To sin and Satan now thyself deny.
Whate'er Thou losest here, the whole to thee
Shall be hereafter recompens'd on high.

I follow Thee, each grateful heart replies,
To life, to death, to pain or pleasure here.
Be Thou my guide, and I shall reach the skies,
And evermore among Thy saints appear.

Afar, O Christ, Thou now art gone, but ne'er
Forgettest them whom Thou hast left below:
They still partake of Thy fraternal care,
As erst with them Thou sharedst here in woe.

A brother's eye Thou bendest still on me;
Yea, Thou art brother such as none on earth
Have ever been, nor e'er again will be
'Mong all our brethren of an earthly birth.

As ne'er a mother can her child forget,
Or Thou the Church for which Thy blood was shed;
So ne'er can memory disown my debt,
Or cold ingratitude my soul o'erspread.

Faith sees Thee still, though Thou art thron'd above;
Affection still on Thee her thoughts shall place;

And Thou, O Christ, the object of my love,
No time shall ever from my heart efface.

To Thee, now reigning 'mong the host on high,
My glad hosannas up in song I'll send;
And Thee, who, though unseen, art ever nigh,
In song I'll ever hail my Lord and King.

Still far from home, I cheer my weary road
With thoughts of Thee, in Zion's holy lays;
And much I long to reach the bright abode,
Where saints and angels give Thee nobler praise.

64. EVERY STATION HAS ITS OWN PECULIAR DUTIES.

ECCLESIASTES IX. 10.

WHATE'ER'S the task which God assigns to thee
In this thy life and pilgrimage below:
Whate'er's the toil which here, by Heaven's decree,
Thou for the general good must undergo,

That task, that toil, of body or of mind,
Do thou, in joy, with all thy might pursue;
And daily let returning wants remind
Thy hands and thoughts to ply their toils anew.

Thy chief, thy special care, do thou employ
In fostering religion's cause within;

Thy passions purify from base alloy,
And strive through Christ a heav'nly prize to win.

All this thy work strive thou forthwith to do:
Thy pow'rs decay, thy life will soon expire:
No work shalt thou in death's domain renew;
No pray'r is there, no sound of sacred lyre.

65. DAVID'S THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF HIS HOUSE.

2 SAMUEL VII. 18–29, ETC.

LORD, what am I, or mine, that I
By Thee am thus exalted high?
And more than this, Thou say'st of mine,
They long on Israel's throne shall shine.

Is such Thy will, Thy high decree?
No goodness, Lord, like Thine we see:
Thou know'st my heart, Thou know'st that there
About with me Thy love I bear.

Jehovah, Thou art great, and none
So mighty deeds as Thine have done;
Yea, God, there's none save Thee alone,
The God who is in Israel known.

And not a nation can be e'er
Compared with those who, 'neath Thy care,

From Egypt and her idols came,
Devoted to Jehovah's name.

Thou didst with many a mighty sign
Redeem them, and they're wholly Thine:
Their God Thou art; Thy people they,
Rejoicing 'neath Jehovah's sway.

And may Thy holy cov'nant sure
And stedfast evermore endure;
And Israel still extol Thy name,
And Thee, the Lord of Hosts, proclaim.

And may my house be stablished too,
O Thou whose words are ever true;
For Thou wast pleas'd to glad mine ear,
And say, 'A house to thee I'll rear.'

Then bless Thy servant's house, O Lord;
In this, Thy love to me record:
Thy words in their behalf I plead;
And if Thou bless, they're bless'd indeed.

66. DAVID'S LAST CHARGE TO SOLOMON.

1 KINGS II. 2–4, ETC.

THE way of all the earth I go;
My son, do thou my counsel heed:
Be strong; be firm; and nobly show
Thyself a man in word and deed.

O mind thy God; O keep His law:
Whate'er His word enjoins, obey;

And see that ne'er a pleasure draw
  Thy footsteps from His holy way.

And so, whate'er thy thoughts design,
  Whate'er thy hands essay to do,
Prosperity on thee shall shine,
  And scenes of joy arise to view.

And while my house Jehovah own,
  So great to me is still His grace,
There ne'er shall fail on Israel's throne
  A prince of David's royal race.

Then, O my son, be truly wise;
  O serve thy father's God in fear:
All hearts He knows; through all disguise,
  The inmost thought to Him is clear.

If Him thou seek with stedfast heart,
  He will of thee be found at last;
If thou away from Him depart,
  Thee off for evermore He'll cast.

67. DAVID'S THANKSGIVING FOR THE TEMPLE OFFERINGS.

1 CHRONICLES XXIX. 10–19.

BLESS'D, O Jehovah, evermore
  Be Thou, the God whom we adore.
Lo! majesty and pow'r are Thine,
And o'er the world Thy glories shine.

Whate'er the heav'n or earth contains,
To Thee, Jehovah, all pertains:
As Sov'reign Lord art Thou on high,
Exalted 'bove the starry sky.

Thou rulest over all; and down
From Thee to princes comes renown:
Thou givest wealth and high estate,
And 'tis of Thee that kings are great.

And Thee we own our Sov'reign Lord;
And joyfully we here record,
That grateful hearts within us glow,
And feel the mighty debt we owe.

But what am I, or mine, that we
Should have a gift to give to Thee?
All comes from Thee,—'tis but a loan,
And back we give but what's Thine own.

For nought is ours; we're strangers here—
Sojourners, whose departure's near:
Life's but a shade; it soon expires,
And we depart as did our sires.

Whate'er, O God, is gather'd here,
On Zion hill Thy house to rear,
Is all Thine own: from Thee it came,
And now 'tis offer'd to Thy name.

Thou seest the heart; Thou know'st that I
Have giv'n without a grudge or sigh,
And seen with joy the people bring
Their gifts to Thee, their heavenly King.

God of our fathers, stablish Thou
Thy folk in what to Thee they vow;
And lead them on, until their thought
At last be to completion brought.

And give to Solomon, my son,
To faint not till Thy work be done;
And may he, full of holy fear,
With perfect heart to Thee adhere.

68. SOLOMON'S PRAYER AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.

1 KINGS VIII. 22–53.

JEHOVAH, Lord of Hosts, to Thee we raise,
From Zion's hill, the joyful voice of praise.
Thy house we here have built, and now proclaim
That 'tis devoted to Jehovah's name.
Wilt Thou 'mong mortals dwell? The vast domain
Of heav'n itself Thy Spirit can't contain.
And if not heav'n, much less the house which we
With feeble hands have rear'd on earth to Thee.

Henceforward, O Jehovah, be Thine eyes
Upon this house, and kindly exercise

A watchful care by day, by night, lest ill
Befall the land, and Zion's holy hill.
And hear, O gracious God, the earnest cry,
Which, gall'd by sin, we raise to Thee on high;
And when Thou hearest, graciously forgive,
And help us yet a holier life to live.

When heav'n is shut, and Thou withholdest rain
To cheer the waste and fertilize the plain,—
The just rebuke of them to sin who cleave,
And food from Thee unthankfully receive,—
O may we all to Thee our guilt confess,
And Thou the land with needful showers bless,
And righteousness increase from day to day,
And plenteous crops the labourers' toil repay.

If plague or famine, at Thy dire command,
Spread lamentation o'er a sinful land;
If locust, caterpillar, mildew, blight,
Upon our fields, our fruits, our corns alight;
Let ev'ry one confess and mourn his sin,
The plague which rages in his heart within;
And, gracious God, do Thou then hear our cry,
And send us succour from Thy throne on high.

If smitten are our armies by the foe,
And all the land resounds with bursts of woe,
Jehovah, make us in our woe to see
How odious sin and sinners are to Thee;
Let them who captives are in th' en'mies' hand,
Return to Thee, their home, their native land;

And feel that, to be truly freemen, they
Must flee from sin, and walk in wisdom's way.

Than Thee, Jehovah, there's no other God,
In heaven above or in the earth abroad.
Thy mercy's great: no love like Thine we know;
To Thee the hope of pardon sinners owe.
O glorious God, in heaven Thy dwelling-place,
Hear Thou our prayer, and send us heavenly grace;
Blot out our sin; let sorrow flee afar,
With sin and famine, pestilence and war.

69. THE PROPHET'S REBUKE FOR THE JEWS' NEGLECT OF THE TEMPLE.

HAGGAI I. 4–11.

THUS speaks Jehovah: Why around
Does still My house a ruin lie,
While yours anew with domes are crown'd,
And lift again their towers on high?

Reflect awhile: though much ye sow,
Your toils no harvest e'er repays:
Ye eat, but hunger still ye know;
Ye drink, but nought your thirst allays.

Well clothed ye seem, yet in the breeze
Ye still the want of warmth deplore;
Lo! he who earneth wages sees
Himself no richer than before.

To Leb'non go, and hither bring
  Supplies of wood to rear My fane,
That I again, as Zion's King,
  In glory, as of old, may reign.

Ye look'd for much, but little came;
  And nothing save a curse it brought:
For, careless of My house and fame,
  Of nought except your own ye thought.

Behold! the heavens withhold their dews,
  The earth is fruitful now no more:
I send a blight, and straight ensues
  Disease and loss of all your store.

70. THE GLORY OF THE LATTER HOUSE DECLARED.

HAGGAI II. 3–9.

THUS speaks Jehovah: Who that saw
  The glory of My ancient fane,
Expects the rising house to draw
  Such wonder and such praise again?

Yet still be strong, and fearless ply
  The mighty work that's now in hand:
I'm with you still, and strength supply,
  As when I gave your sires the land.

Ere long will other times appear
  Than men have ever seen before,

When I will shake the mighty sphere,
  Both heaven and earth, both sea and shore.

All nations I will shake, and He
  Will come for whom the nations long;
And full of glory then shall be
  This house, again the theme of song.

The silver's Mine, and Mine the gold,
  And precious gifts which mortals bring;
Of Me do they their treasures hold,
  Of Me, the universal King.

The latter 'bove the former fane
  In fame will rise, and aye increase;
And here I'll 'mong My folk remain,
  And hence I'll give the nations peace.

71. THE SAFETY AND INCREASE OF ZION'S PEOPLE.

ZECHARIAH II. 4–13.

JERUSALEM shall her bounds o'erflow,
  And spread unwall'd afar around;
For God against th' assailing foe
  With bulwarks will her folk surround.

Around her He's a wall of fire;
  Within her He, her glory, shines—
Her light, her joy, her whole desire,
  To whom she all her care consigns.

From every clime 'neath heaven, where'er
  Her children are dispersed abroad,
Let th' exiles homeward now repair,
  And hail anew the reign of God.

O Zion, out of Babel haste,
  And come again to Canaan's land:
They dare Jehovah who, to waste
  His chosen folk, shall raise the hand.

Thus speaks Jehovah: O'er the foe
  I'll shake My hand, and up shall rise
His vassal realms, to bring him low,
  And make the spoiler's wealth their prize.

O Zion, sing; for lo! I'm near,
  I come in midst of thee to dwell;
And distant tribes shall join Me here,
  The numbers of My train to swell.

God will again Jerus'lem choose;
  He'll Judah as His portion hold;
And there He'll dwell, and thence diffuse
  A brighter radiance than of old.

All flesh, be still before your God;
  For up He rises, forth He shines,
And out of Zion comes abroad,
  To work His will with mighty signs.

72. PRAYER IN BEHALF OF ZION.

ISAIAH LXII. 1, 2, 6–8.

FOR Zion's sake I'll never rest,
Nor spare my voice and labouring breast,
Till like a torch her glory blaze,
And o'er the earth be spread her praise.

All kings, all realms, shall yet behold
Her fame resplendent as of old;
And God Himself anew declare,
That still she's all His joy and care.

By day, lest come the foe, and thrall,
He places watchmen on her wall;
And ne'er, though night descend in peace,
Their rounds, and cries, and signals cease.

O ye, who watch for Zion's weal,
Urge still her suit with fervent zeal;
Invoke her Lord, set forth her need,
And still for further mercies plead.

Yea, importune with loud request;
Yea, give not your Jehovah rest,
Till forth at last Jerusalem stand,
The praise and boast of every land;

And He declare that never more,
From that time forward, as before,
Shall heathen foes in evil hour
The produce of her fields devour.

73. THE CONVERSION OF THE GENTILES.

ISAIAH LX. 1–7, 10, 12, 18, 19.

AWAKE, O Zion! rise and shine,
For now a glorious light is thine—
God's glory rests on thee.
Behold, the heathen nations, whom
No rays of heavenly light illume,
In joy thy glory see.

Upraise thine eyes, and look afar,
And see how great the gatherings are
O'er all the Gentile lands.
To thee they come, both high and low;
To thee both king and people flow,
And wait thy high commands.

Enlarged thy numbers now shall be,
And round about thou now wilt see
A loyal duteous race.
Like sons and daughters at thy side,
They'll evermore with thee abide,
And grow in heav'nly grace.

The Gentile world will all be thine,
And all the beauteous isles that shine
Afar upon the sea.
Lo! Kedar with her flocks attends,
And Sheba gold and incense sends,
An offering to thee.

Thy gates are open day and night,
And kings and subjects, with delight,
On thee with homage wait;
And, lo! destruction shall o'erwhelm
The heathen lands, both king and realm,
Who thee, O Zion, hate.

Within thy land there's no alarm;
No war, no spoiler's wasting arm,
Nor desolating blight.
No more ye'll need the sun by day,
No more by night the moon's pale ray,
For God is now thy light.

74. THE JOY OF THE LATTER DAYS.

ISAIAH XXXV.

BEHOLD, the earth no more is sad;
The wilderness itself is glad,
And blossoms like the rose,
And now displays its hidden powers,
And, putting forth its fruits and flowers,
In richest beauty glows.

'Tis full of life, 'tis full of song,
It has whatever fruits belong
To Sharon's lovely fields:
It has the shade, which far on high,
O'er Leb'non, 'neath another sky,
The lofty cedar yields.

With gladness man the scene surveys—
The beauteous scene, which God arrays
With so abundant grace.
O God, let man be beauteous too,
Let grace the inner frame renew,
And health relume the face.

O strengthen hands that now are weak;
Confirm the feeble knees, and seek
To make the timid brave.
Let fearful souls God's comforts hear:
Be strong; fear not; th' Avenger's near,
He cometh you to save.

Then shall the light the blind's eyes cheer;
Deaf ears shall be unstopp'd, and hear;
And all be joy again.
The lame man like the hart shall bound;
The dumb shall sing, and song resound
Where silence used to reign.

In the arid desert, rivers rise,
And roll their streams to fertilize
The barren lands around.
In dragons' haunts the reeds now rise,
And grass and rushes cheer the eyes,
And verdure clothes the ground.

Behold! a highway's also there;
The holy way 'tis called, and ne'er
By hostile feet 'tis trod.

To Zion's folk belongs the way;
Nor go her travellers now astray,
Or wander from her God.

No lion's there, no rav'nous beast,
Nor ought save Zion's folk; for ceased
Is now her cruel thrall.
They home return with wreaths and songs;
All now is joy, and woes and wrongs
No more the land befall.

75. COMFORT TO THE CONTRITE AND HUMBLE.

ISAIAH LVII. 1, 2, 15–21.

THE righteous man is ta'en away,
And none the reason understand:
He's taken hence, ere come the day
When ill shall overwhelm the land.

Away from earthly scenes he goes,
In death's deep sleep to close his eyes;
Forgotten now all earthly woes,
Where in his lowly bed he lies.

Thus says Jehovah: I on high,
In heaven's sublime abode, reside;
And holy is My name; and I
Through all eternity abide.

Yet 'tis My joy to dwell below
  With all that are of humble heart;
To cheer My people's day of woe,
  And ease the wounded spirit's smart.

My chast'ning rod aside I'll lay,
  Lest 'neath the stroke their spirits fail:
My face I hide, and down they stray
  From Me to death's lugubrious vale.

I've seen how they their sin deplore;
  I'll smooth their path, I'll ease their yoke:
I'll heal their wounds, and straight restore
  My comforts to My sorrowing folk.

Another theme of song I'll send,
  For still I'll give them pleasure here:
Yea, peace I'll give; I'll peace extend
  To all My folk afar and near.

But like the troubled, restless sea,
  Whose turbid waves ne'er cease to roll,
The sinner knows, by God's decree,
  Nor rest nor peace within his soul.

76. THE JEWS CALLED TO REPENTANCE UNDER FAMINE AND PESTILENCE.

JOEL I. 5, 6, 11, 13–20.

AWAKE, ye drunkards, howl and weep; for, lo!
Your mirth is gone, no vintage brings you wine:
Against the land there comes a ravenous foe,
A host of locusts to consume the vine.

Bewail, ye husbandmen, the scene around:
The fields are waste, the pastures disappear;
No more with harvest are your labours crown'd,
Nor corn nor vintage come to glad the year.

O howl, ye priests, before the altar lie,
In meanest sackcloth, through the lonesome night:
Oblation now no more the fields supply,
Nor flow libations with accustom'd rite.

Forthwith proclaim a fast; forthwith convoke
A solemn meeting in Jehovah's fane.
Let priests and elders, yea, let all the folk,
Uplift their voices in a doleful strain.

Alas, Jehovah's day, His day of ire,
His day of vengeance, now is come at last!
Our joy is gone, our hopes of life expire,
And all is smitten by th' Almighty's blast.

The garner's empty; overthrown the barn;
The seed is rotten underneath the clod;

Our wither'd fields and blighted vineyards warn
  Of coming want, and speak an angry God.

How groan the beasts, because their pasture fails!
  Lo! mute astonishment the herd pervades;
The flocks of sheep devouring want assails,
  And fell disease the stall and fold invades.

To Thee, Jehovah, all the creatures cry;
  On Thee we call in this our day of woe;
For 'neath Thy blighting hand the pastures die,
  And streams of water now no longer flow.

77. THE JEWS EXHORTED TO THANKFULNESS FOR THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH.

JOEL II. 23, 24, 26, 27.

BE glad, ye sons of Zion, now,
  And 'fore your God in homage bow:
  For gaily smiles the scene;
Adown He sends His dew and rains,
To fertilize the lowly plains,
  And make the mountains green.

Behold how rich is still the soil!
Your vats o'erflow with wine and oil,
  Your floors are full of wheat.
Again, at God's benign command,
Does plenty fill a grateful land,
  And all in gladness eat.

Then ever bless Jehovah's name,
And forth in gladsome song proclaim
From whom the plenty flows;
And say, that He is God alone,
The God who is in Israel known,
And all her joys bestows.

78. THE DECALOGUE.

THUS speaks Jehovah: I am God alone,
Another God than Me ye ne'er shall own;
Nor serve nor make an idol in My stead,
Lest vengeance fall upon your guilty head.

Nor take My name in vain; for guilty he
Who thus derides Me in My sight shall be:
And sanctify the Sabbath; for I bless'd
This day of old to be a holy rest.

Honour the parents whence ye had your birth,
That ye may also long be spared on earth:
Nor kill; nor be unchaste; nor lie, nor steal;
Nor covet ought that makes another's weal.

Amen! O God, we own Thy heav'nly voice:
As 'tis our duty, be it too our choice,
To keep Thy law for ever in our view,
And whatsoe'er Thou biddest, that to do.

79. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

O HEAVENLY FATHER, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will on earth be done:
O give me food; uphold my mortal frame,
And make me strong the race of life to run.

As others I forgive, forgive Thou me;
O rid me, Lord, out of the tempter's hand;
And grant that I may valiantly, through Thee,
The flesh, the world, and all their wiles withstand.

For Thou art able to subdue the foe,
Ev'n Thou the Mighty God, whom men adore;
And such Thou wert ere time began to flow,
And such wilt be when time shall be no more.

Amen! O God, through Christ I urge my pray'r;
Through Christ, before Thee all my wants I lay:
Through Christ I ask; Through Christ do Thou Thy care
In gifts and graces, Lord, to me display.

80. THE CREED.

IN God th' Almighty Father I believe;
The heav'n and earth to be His work I own;
His care throughout creation I perceive;
And of all causes, He is cause alone.

In Christ His Son, our Saviour, I believe,
  The Son of Mary, among women bless'd ;
She, highly favoured virgin, did conceive
  And bring forth Him, the Son of God confess'd.

'Neath Pilate's sway He closed His life of woe ;
  Upon the cross He drew His latest breath ;
The tomb receiv'd His flesh ; and then below,
  His soul beheld the shadowy realms of death.

On the third day, the tomb and death resign'd
  Their sacred charge, and forth to life He came,
And rose to heav'n ; and left on earth behind
  The num'rous ills that vex the human frame.

On the right hand of God, the eternal Sire,
  In glory now He sits with regal pow'r ;
And thence He'll come amid a glorious choir,
  To judge mankind at nature's final hour.

I also in the Holy Ghost believe ;
  The holy universal Church I own ;
And through the Spirit whom the saints receive,
  O'er all the Church is one communion known.

To all who now obey their Saviour here,
  Will sin through Him be afterward forgiv'n :
The dead will rise, a happier world appear,
  And endless life begin with Christ in heav'n.

Amen! O God, to Thee I thus declare
The faith and hope which Christ has taught me here.
Increase my faith, confirm my hope, and there
Where dwells my Lord, at length may I appear.

81. BAPTISM.

ONE baptism, and one God alone,
We now, O Father, gladly own,
O Son and Holy Ghost.
In holiness we wish to grow,
And then, when ends our life below,
To join the heavenly host.

Baptize us, wash us, cleanse us, Lord,
'Tis thus that still with one accord
To Thee we humbly pray.
Our souls are still defil'd with sin:
Do Thou put heavenly grace within,
And purge our sin away.

O let Thy Spirit from on high
Illume our minds, and sanctify
Our intellectual pow'rs.
The wisdom which descends from Thee,
From sin can set the sinner free;
That wisdom, Lord, be ours.

Revive our souls, regenerate
And bring them from their dead estate,
And give them life anew;

Yet more and more from heav'n above,
Do Thou, with faith, and hope, and love,
The inner man imbue.

82. THE COMMUNION.

ALMIGHTY Father, Thou art good:
Thou givest life, Thou givest food,
To every soul that lives.
I bless Thy name, and gladly raise
Aloft to Thee the song of praise,
Whate'er Thy bounty gives.

Not bread alone dost Thou bestow,
To nourish, while I'm here below,
My frail and feeble flesh.
Thine only Son Thou givest too,
That He my spirit may renew,
And th' inner man refresh.

Thou givest Christ, the heavenly bread,
The food by which the soul is fed,
To live for evermore;
The grace which cometh from on high,
And bids the soul above the sky
On wings of faith to soar.

As living water, streams which flow
To cheer this world of sin and woe,
Is Christ to me within;

A fountain where I humbly pray
That I may wash my guilt away,
And cleanse my soul from sin.

He for His folk a ransom paid,
When down His precious life He laid,
That sin might be aton'd.
And they, through grace, in faith and love
Will daily grow, until above
With Him they be enthron'd.

His bleeding, dying body, we,
In emblem, on His table see;
And fervently we pray,
That healthful here, and truly wise,
Our souls, when fail our fleshly eyes,
May see eternal day.

83. THE SABBATH.

JEHOVAH, source of life and light,
Thou mad'st the sun, and day, and night,
And time began to flow.
The whole revolving year is Thine;
And if another day be mine,
To Thee the gift I owe.

And O constrain me, while I live,
A portion of my life to give
In holy rites to Thee;

A weekly Sabbath, best of days,
Which lifts the soul, in songs of praise,
To heavenly Jubilee.

Let Sinai's words, in fancy, still
Resound around my path, and fill
My soul with solemn awe:
'Remember Sabbath; give its rest
To all thy house, to child and guest;
And keep Jehovah's law.'

Yea, let His Sabbath be to me,
And so to all my friends who see
How I the Sabbath spend,
A sign that here, 'mid toil and care,
I true and glad allegiance bear,
And on His grace depend.

From week to week let prayer and praise,
And thoughts of God, His works and ways,
Be dearer unto me;
And make me feel that I, ere long,
The heavenly choir shall be among,
And heavenly glory see.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost—the One,
The ever living God,
Be ceaseless praise and glory given,
By every creature both in heaven
And all the world abroad.

84. THE BLESSEDNESS OF THOSE WHO SANCTIFY THE SABBATH.

ISAIAH LVIII. 13, 14.

RESTRAIN, when comes the Sabbath-day,
Your feet from pleasure's devious way,
And wait on God alone.
Declare the Sabbath your delight;
And hail with joy each holy rite
That calls you to His throne.

Dismiss your thoughts of worldly gain;
Let neither word nor deed profane
Jehovah's holy rest.
Let holier thought than earth supplies
Jehovah's Sabbath solemnize,
And soothe the weary breast.

Lo! joy shall then be truly yours,
A joy which evermore endures;
For God the joy bestows.
On you He'll look with kindly eye,
Yea, He shall raise you up on high,
Beyond the reach of woes.

'Mong Zion's folk He'll feed you here,
A folk who aye to Him are dear
'Bove every other race.
For so He speaks, ev'n Zion's God,
And sends His gracious words abroad
From Zion's holy place.

85. A DOXOLOGY.

JUDE 24, 25.

TO Him who is able to save
His people from going astray,
And grant that no longer the grave
Should call them for ever its prey;

To Him by whose potent decree
At last they'll in glory appear
Unblemished, and faultless, and free
From all that debases them here;

To Him, the Omniscient God,
Our Lord, our Redeemer, and King,
Let all His dominions with laud,
With song, and with melody ring.

To Him be all glory and fame,
And majesty, honour, and power;
And aye unto us be His name
A stay in adversity's hour.

86. A PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God! I bless Thy holy name,
That 'neath Thy shelter I in safety dwell:
O save me still; O save from sin and shame,
From anguish here, and direr woe in hell.

O look in mercy on Thy thoughtless child;
  I've strayed from Thee; I'm poor, and weak, and blind.
Forgive my sin; through Christ be reconciled;
  In pledge of pardon, grant me peace of mind.

My fallen graces rear Thou up anew;
  Establish, strengthen, renovate my soul;
Supply my wants; clear up each darksome view;
  My feet direct; my heart in woe console.

O spread Thy gifts around; let all my kin
  And friends and neighbours prosper 'neath Thine eye;
But chiefly rid them from the power of sin,
  And train them up for happier scenes on high.

Nor fit nor worthy are we now to see
  The holy heaven to which our souls aspire;
Through Jesus cleanse us, and we fit shall be
  To come to heaven and join the angelic choir.

87. MORTALITY OF MAN'S BODY.

JOB XIV. 10.

ALAS for man! how poor his best estate!
  Disorder reigns without him and within;
He feels that ills on all his footsteps wait,
  And death and sorrow are the fruits of sin.

All sink in death, and turn again to dust;
  Like flowers we fade; we wither like the grass:

The grace and strength in which we put our trust,
  Like clouds of smoke away shall quickly pass.

Amid the general wreck, does nought survive
  Of such a creature 'mong the works of God ;
Is what was once with subtile thought alive,
  No better now than earth's inglorious clod ?

Nay, rising far beyond this earthly range,
  And leaving all the dregs of sin behind,
The soul shall then, beyond the reach of change,
  Eternal live with God's eternal mind.

88. THE LIFE OF THE RISEN REDEEMER.

JOB XIX. 25.

I KNOW that the Lord my Redeemer's alive,
  And liveth and reigneth in glory on high ;
I know that through Him shall my ashes revive
  With life that's ethereal, and never can die.

I know, bless'd be God, that on that latter day,
  When time shall to mortals be measured no more,
He'll stand on the earth in His kingly array,
  And many shall see Him, and seeing, adore.

And though this my body shall be in the dust,
  A prey to the worm and the power of the grave,
That God I shall see in the flesh is my trust,
  When rais'd by His power who is mighty to save.

I know that when Jesus descendeth again,
  He cometh a Saviour, a Judge, and a King,
To summon before Him all races of men,
  And forth into judgment their actions to bring.

89. THE FAILURE OF TEMPORAL LIFE.

PSALM LXXXIX. 48.

THE foe's at hand, and my defences fail;
  Nor strength nor courage nature now supplies:
Whate'er is earthly, at the best is frail,
  And death will quickly make my flesh his prize.

O save my better part; Jehovah, save
  The inner man from sinking in dismay:
Do Thou my spirit in the fountain lave,
  Which Christ has op'd for purging sin away.

Farewell, my friends; a long farewell to all
  With whom I've joyed the race of life to run;
And now, my God, when here in death I fall,
  Be life again with Thee in heaven begun.

Another holier, happier life, where I
  And they, whose friendship I've enjoyed below,
At last may sinless meet beneath Thine eye,
  To live and love beyond the reach of woe.

90. THE CHRISTIAN'S VICTORY OVER DEATH.

I CORINTHIANS XV. 55.

LIFE ebbs apace; in ruin sinks my frame;
My powers now in ev'ry member fail:
Lo! thither hastes my body whence it came,
To mix with native dust in death's dark vale.

But, O my soul, why dreadest thou the fall?
Why grievest thou that earth reclaims her own?
When sinks the flesh, the spirit 'scapes from thrall,
And, undissolved, survives and lives alone.

Do sins afflict thee? Plenteous grace in store
Has Christ for all that flee to Him for aid.
In room of them the pangs of death He bore;
And stripes which they deserved, on Him were laid.

The grave appals thee? Look beyond, and view
The Lord alive, triumphant o'er the foe.
He waits thy coming. Bid the world adieu,
And fly to Him beyond the realms of woe.

And sing with rapture: Where, O death, 's thy sting?
Devouring grave! O where is now thy boast?
Both sting and boast are gone; for Christ, our King,
Hath death disarmed, and quell'd all Satan's host.

91. THE SONG OF THE DYING SAINT.

REVELATION XXII. 20.

COME quickly, O Jesus; have mercy on me:
To see Thy salvation I long.
O succour the dying; for only to Thee
Does life, O Redeemer, belong.

Lo! death is upon me, and presses me sore;
'Tis Thou that his triumph canst foil:
For Thou hast encounter'd the enemy before,
And made him surrender his spoil.

Come quickly, O Jesus; O come, and repress
His legion of terrors and fears:
For, lo! I my sin and my weakness confess;
My need of Thee, Jesus, appears.

O bring me assistance, and hasten to quell
The tumult which rages within;
And far let Thy heavenly succour repel
The fiercest assailant, my sin.

Come quickly, O Jesus, and take me away
From sickness, and sorrow, and pain.
Come quickly, O Jesus! make haste to convey
My spirit to glory's domain.

Come quickly, O Jesus; nor let it be long,
  Ere joining the seraphs above,
I pour out a sweeter and heartier song,
  And glow with a holier love.

92. THE RENOVATION OF ALL THINGS.

PSALM CII. 25, 26; ISAIAH XXXIV. 4; 2 PETER III. 10, 13; REVELATION XXI. 1, 5.

THE world Thou, O Jehovah, mad'st,
  And days, and years, and time began:
Thou earth's foundations firmly laid'st,
  And rearedst up a home for man.

Thy hands the heav'nly mansions framed,
  And taught the mighty sphere to roll;
Thy breath its radiant orbs inflamed,
  And lighted heav'n from pole to pole.

Lo! time at length will pass away;
  The world again will be unmade.
Like robes, Thy works with age decay,
  And worn out, will aside be laid.

The stars will fall from th' azure skies,
  As falls the leaf from off the vine;
No more the orb of day will rise,
  Nor moon with borrowed lustre shine.

Heav'n, canopy to earth no more,
  Together, as a scroll, is roll'd;

The sea redoubles now her roar,
  And bursts the bounds she own'd of old.

Consuming fires all nature seize;
  The elements through heat decay;
And earth, so stands her Lord's decrees,
  With mortal things must pass away.

But, lo! new heav'ns and earth arise;
  A holier Zion rears her head;
A fairer Canaan round her lies,
  And ne'er a foe her people dread.

Eternity asserts her reign
  O'er worlds that now no blemish know;
For Time is gone, and in his train
  Disease, and sin, and death, and woe.

93. THE 'GLORIA PATRI,'

ANCIENTLY SUNG AT THE END OF PSALMS AND OF OTHER SERVICES.

In several Metres.

I.

TO Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,—
  Yea, mighty God, to Thee,
From earth and heav'n's seraphic host
  All glory ever be.

2.

Be laud by choir and host
  Of men and angels given,
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
  Alike in earth and heaven.

3.

All glory unto God be given,
  To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Both now and aye, in earth and heav'n,
  By men and all th' angelic host.

4.

Be glory, mighty God, to Thee,
Yea, to th' eternal glorious Three,
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
From men and heav'n's sublimer host.

5.

O great and mighty God, to Thee,
The Father, Son, and Spirit,—Three,
Though One Thou art, and evermore
All creatures Thee as one adore,—
To Thee, O mighty God, be giv'n
All glory both in earth and heav'n.

6.

By men and heav'n's angelic host,
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
  Yea, mighty God, to Thee,

Through time and through th' eternal day,
Whose brightness ne'er shall know decay,
Ascribed let glory be.

7.

Be glory, honour, laud,
To our Almighty God,
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Yea, while revolve the skies,
To Him let anthems rise
From earthly choir and heav'nly host.

8.

From earth, as ne'er before,
Let anthems rise to heaven;
Yea, now and evermore,
Be laud and glory giv'n
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
By heav'n's devout and glorious host.

9.

To God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Be glory giv'n, both now and evermore,
Throughout all worlds, by all th' angelic host,
And nobler songs of men than heretofore.

10.

Let ev'ry land that learns Messiah's name,
Exult in song, and spread abroad the fame

Of Father, Son, and Spirit, far and near,
Till all the world the glorious tidings hear.

11.

To God, for evermore, all glory be,
And majesty through all His worlds; for we
And all, O Father, through Thy glorious Son,
Whose blood redemption for His people won,
Enjoy access to Thee; and when we're weak,
We learn from Him Thy Spirit's aid to seek.

12.

O mighty Jehovah, adorable Three—
The Father, the Son, and the Spirit of grace,
Ascrib'd evermore be all glory to Thee,
Through all the dominions of infinite space.

13.

Be glory, Almighty Jehovah, to Thee,
Whose years through eternity run,—
The years of th' eternal ineffable Three,
The Father and Spirit and Son.

14.

Be glory ascribed to Jehovah alone,
Whose days neither change nor beginning have known,
Who to everlasting shall be;
Be glory ascrib'd to the Father and Son,
And Spirit of truth, who in Godhead are One,
As Persons eternally Three!